

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

AUGUST 1995

Staff:

Roy Lenardson, Legislative Analyst
David C. Elliott, Principal Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670

MEMBERS:

*Sen. Jane A. Amero
Sen. David L. Carpenter
Sen. Susan W. Longley

*Rep. Beverly C. Daggett
Rep. Douglas J. Ahearne
Rep. William Lemke
Rep. Jane W. Saxl
Rep. Belinda A. Gerry
Rep. Jon M. Rosebush
Rep. Julie-Marie Robichaud
Rep. Priscilla Lane
Rep. Christine R. Savage
Rep. Robert E. Yackobitz

*Denotes Chair



**Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

State House Station 13, Augusta, Maine 04333
Telephone (207) 287-1670
Telecopier (207) 287-1275

**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION BEFORE
THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES**

AUGUST 1995

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries. The publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, is helpful in determining to which committee any particular bill was referred.

In this document, the committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number, together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various categories of final action are abbreviated as follows:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill carried over to Second Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If more detailed information is needed on a bill, contact the committee analyst.

5581LHS

SUMMARY

This bill clarifies the date of commitment of uncollected sewer charges to the treasurers of sewer districts as the date when the lien filing period is calculated. The bill designates the same date for collection of sewer charges as the date for the collection of real property taxes.

LD 398 **An Act to Ensure Courteous Treatment of the Public by State Employees** ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
LANE	OTP-AM MAJ	
	ONTP MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill makes discourteous treatment of citizens by state employees a subject for attention in the Total Quality Management process and in employee training and development programs. The bill also requires that courteous treatment of the public be evaluated in employee performance appraisals. The bill establishes the Office of Citizen Relations with a toll-free number that citizens may call to register complaints. The Office of Citizen Relations forwards the information received to the appropriate department for investigation and resolution.

LD 404 **Resolve, That State Agencies Develop a Refund-for-Compliance Policy** ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
JOY	ONTP MAJ	
	OTP-AM MIN	

SUMMARY

This resolve directs agencies that use fines in the enforcement of state and federal laws to develop a mechanism by which 90% of the fines may be returned to those businesses or individuals that come into compliance.

LD 412 **An Act Relating to Building Permit Ordinances** PUBLIC 89

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
WINN	OTP	

SUMMARY

This bill is intended to clarify that the provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, sections 4101 to 4104 do not apply to permits or other actions governed by a local zoning or shoreland zoning ordinance. It is intended to eliminate conflicts that might otherwise exist between any such ordinances and the provisions of Title 30-A, sections 4101 to 4104 regarding administration, enforcement and appeals.

LD 418 **An Act to Amend the Governmental Structure and Budget Approval Process for Cumberland County** PUBLIC 380
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
LABRECQUE	OTP-AM	H-530
		H-586 LABRECQUE

SUMMARY

This bill abolishes the current Cumberland County Budget Advisory Committee and replaces it with the Cumberland County Budget Committee. The new budget committee, working in conjunction with the county commissioners, is responsible for developing the annual county budget. The bill establishes a collaborative process between the commissioners and the committee in reviewing department requests, sharing budgetary information and approving a final budget. The budget approved by the budget committee is final unless changed by the county commissioners by unanimous vote. The membership, qualifications, terms and procedures of the new budget committee are similar to those of the old budget advisory committee. The bill contains transition provisions to guide implementation. If Cumberland County establishes a county manager style of government, the Cumberland County Budget Committee is terminated.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-530) replaces the bill. It establishes the position of Cumberland County manager and temporarily abolishes the current Cumberland County Budget Advisory Committee. Until a county manager is hired, not later than January 1, 1996, the Cumberland County Budget Committee approves the county budget, subject only to a unanimous override by the county commissioners. After the county manager is hired, the budget committee's recommended budget may be overridden by a majority vote of the county commissioners. The county manager is hired by the county commissioners and works under their direction in executing the policy directives of the county commissioners and managing the day-to-day operations of county government, including preparation of the proposed county budget. The amendment contains transition provisions to guide implementation. The amendment also adds a mandate preamble, an emergency preamble, an emergency clause and a fiscal note to the bill.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-586) clarifies the process for filing a vacancy on the Budget Advisory Committee.

LD 431 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of DIED BETWEEN
Maine to Reduce the Size of the Legislature Following BODIES
Redistricting in the Year 2003

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
RUHLIN	ONTP MAJ	
	OTP-AM MIN	

SUMMARY

This resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to reduce the size of the House of Representatives from 151 members to 99 members and the size of the Senate from no more than 35 members to 33 members. The redistricting will be done in 2003 and the reduction in size of the bodies takes effect in 2005.

LD 439 An Act Requiring That Disbursement Warrants Receive an PUBLIC 83
Affirmative Vote by Municipal Officers

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
LEMONT	OTP-AM	H-82

SUMMARY

This bill requires a formal affirmative vote of the majority of the municipal officers before a municipal treasurer can disburse money.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-82) adds a mandate preamble and a fiscal note to the bill.