

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

AUGUST 1995

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*Denotes Chair



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**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

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine Regarding the Constitutional Amendment Process****SPONSOR(S)**

LAWRENCE

COMMITTEE REPORT

ONTP

MAJ

OTP-AM

MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**SUMMARY**

This resolution proposes a Constitutional amendment to provide for amending the Constitution by a majority vote of both Houses and a 2/3 vote of inhabitants voting on the amendment.

LD 1213**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Special
Commission on Governmental Restructuring**

CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)

AMERO

COMMITTEE REPORT**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED****SUMMARY**

This bill has been carried over to the second regular session. This bill contains the recommendations of the Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring.

Part A of the bill implements the recommendations of the majority of the Special Commission on Governmental Restructuring regarding the creation of an Office of Advocacy to replace several existing advocacy organizations. The commission's report contains a minority view on this issue.

Part B of the bill establishes the 8-member Public Education Strategic Planning Council. The members of the council are the Chancellor of the University of Maine System, the President of the Maine Technical College System, the President of the Maine Maritime Academy, the Commissioner of Education, one person from each of the boards of trustees of the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System and the Maine Maritime Academy and one person who is a member of the State Board of Education. The purpose of the council is to create and maintain a long-term strategic plan for public education in the State and make related funding and policy recommendations to the Legislature.

Part C of the bill reorganizes the Department of Environmental Protection along functional lines, reduces the size of the Board of Environmental Protection from 10 members to 3 members and limits the board's authority to hearing appeals of the license decisions of the Commissioner of Environmental Protection. All other duties formerly vested in the board, including all rule-making activities, all licensing functions and the authority to modify, revoke or suspend licenses are assumed by the commissioner. Part C makes an appeal to the board a prerequisite for the filing of a judicial appeal. Appeals of board decisions may be taken to Superior Court.

Part D of the bill requires the Director of the Bureau of Information Services to ensure that standards for the acquisition of data processing and telecommunications equipment by state agencies optimize the electronic exchange of information and promote interagency telecommunications. Part D also directs the Bureau of General Services, within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, to develop a plan for the cost-effective consolidation of state-owned facilities using a model that incorporates assessment of cost advantages of owning versus leasing.

Part E of the bill establishes the Maine Cultural Foundation as a nonprofit corporation for the purpose of supporting the State's cultural heritage.