

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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:

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

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return on investment for business financial incentives. The amendment eliminates the provision for holding businesses accountable for incentives provided to them.

LD 1354 An Act to Modify the Electricians' Examining Board Law

PUBLIC 325

SPONSOR(S)
HALL

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-244

SUMMARY

This bill amends the definitions of helper electrician, journeyman-in-training, journeyman electrician, supervisor, limited electrician and master electrician. The definition of master electrician in current law includes the word "corporation," which has created some confusion as to whether a corporation license is required. The bill removes the word "corporation" from the definition of master electrician and separately defines an electrical company as a person in the business of making electrical installations who employs individuals in that business.

The bill removes the exemption that currently allows 2-family home construction to be exempt from permits. By removing the exemption it would require electrical inspections on new construction of a 2-family dwelling to ensure compliance with the requirements set by the National Electrical Code.

The bill allows complaints to be filed orally with state electrical inspectors if imminent danger is suspected.

The bill allows complaints to be filed with the Division of Licensing and Enforcement, Case Compliance Coordinator instead of the executive secretary to conform with current procedures.

The bill eliminates language that no longer applies. Motion picture projectionists are no longer licensed with the board.

The bill increases the required hours of electrical education to satisfy the minimum competence levels for safe practice by limited licensees. It also clarifies language regarding qualifications for licensure as a limited electrician in low energy.

This bill clarifies that an inactive license must be renewed each licensing cycle.

Also see LD 1463.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-244) makes it clear that an electrical company license is required for a person who employs licensed electricians. There are no qualifications or fees for this license.

The amendment removes the provision of the bill that deletes references to corporation licenses from the definition of master electrician.

LD 1357 An Act to Create the Propane and Natural Gas Professional Act of 1995

PUBLIC 389

SPONSOR(S)
HARRIMAN

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-302

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Propane and Natural Gas Licensing Board to regulate those who install and maintain propane and natural gas equipment and sets standards for the proper installation of the equipment. The board also licenses plant operators and dispensing stations and their operators.

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The board is independent of State Government but has its enforcement activities conducted by an agency of State Government and its operations are subject to the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-302) requires the licensing of propane and natural gas technicians by a board within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. Qualifications for licensure are to conform to the requirements of the Natural Propane Gas Association or as determined by the board. All installations must be made to the standards adopted by the board.

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-315) sets a limit on the expenditures of the board for its first 5 years and requires that the board hold public hearing on its budget. A surplus in the budget is to be used to reduce future fees.

The Commissioner of the Department of Financial Regulation is required to consult with the board relative to persons employed to assist with the regulation of the profession.

The amendment sunsets the Act on April 1, 1996. The board is to report to the Committee on the budget and whether any of the regulatory activities can be privatized. No date is set for this report. (Not adopted)

LD 1361 An Act Concerning the Acupuncture Certificate of Licensure Laws ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
PINGREE

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill expands the grandfather provision in the Acupuncture Licensing Board laws from August 9, 1989 to January 1, 1996.

LD 1370 An Act to Promote Long-term Economic Development through the Establishment of the Maine Technology Investment Fund PUBLIC 445

SPONSOR(S)
PINGREE

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-196

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the multi-service Maine Technology Investment Fund within the Maine Science and Technology Foundation for the purposes of providing matching funds for federal grants and to invest directly in science and technology for target industries.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-196) provides authority to own intellectual property rights and to protect proprietary information associated with contracts, grants and investments; provides for a limit to the amount the foundation can charge against the fund for operation expenses; provides for a minimum match requirement for grants made under the matching grants activities; and includes a provision for reporting matching funds.

The amendment requires the foundation to develop a biennial statewide science and technology plan that is based on the State's economic development strategy. The plan must contain objectives, costs and provisions for evaluation and assigning and ensuring accountability. The amendment also requires the foundation to develop and release a biennial report card that describes how the State's science and technology infrastructure compares nationally and assesses the performance of the State and recipients of state funds in meeting the goals and objectives in the biennial plan.