

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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**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

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 ONTP
Laws

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PINGREE	ONTP	

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 PUBLIC 445
the Establishment of the Maine Technology Investment Fund

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PINGREE	OTP-AM	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.