

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE**

**1ST SPECIAL SESSION**

**(NOVEMBER 28TH TO DECEMBER 1, 1995)**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES**

**JUNE 1996**



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

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**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

*Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees*  
*June 1996*

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

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

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is March 1, 1996.

**LD 1594**      **An Act to Authorize Appropriations and Allocations for the 1996-1997 Biennium and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary for the Operation of State Government**      DIED BETWEEN HOUSES

Sponsor(s)                      Committee Report                      Amendments Adopted

LD 1594 was not referred to committee. Part A of LD 1594 proposed to make "non-productivity" adjustments to General Fund appropriations, Federal Expenditure Fund allocations and Other Special Revenue allocations in the Department of Human Services. Part B proposed to authorize the Department of Human Services to pay the legal services for individuals appealing denial of Federal Supplemental Security Income benefits in order to reduce expenditure of General Assistance and Aid to Families with Dependent Children funds. Part B also provided that funds deappropriated from the General Fund could not be transferred or utilized for any other purpose unless appropriated by the Legislature.

**LD 1595**      **An Act to Increase the Number of Washington County Commissioners from 3 to 5**      PUBLIC 501 EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)                      Committee Report                      Amendments Adopted  
BUNKER  
CASSIDY

LD 1595 was not referred to committee. The bill proposed to increase the number of Washington County commissioners by creating 2 at-large commissioner positions.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1995, chapter 501 increases the number of Washington County commissioners from 3 to 5 by creating 2 at-large commissioner positions.

**LD 1596**      **An Act to Implement the Productivity Plan of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources Relating to the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission**      INDEF PP

Sponsor(s)                      Committee Report                      Amendments Adopted

LD 1596 was not referred to committee. The bill proposed to repeal the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission; transfer the powers, duties and functions to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources; retain existing rules and procedures; preserve existing contracts; provide for the transfer of records, property and equipment to the department; and adjust appropriations. It also would have created the State Conservation District Advisory Council to advise the commissioner on matters affecting the various soil and water conservation districts.