

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
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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 1597 **An Act to Reduce the State Tax Valuation for the Town of Hope** CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
SAVAGE
PINGREE

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-682

LD 1597 was referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation and was carried over to the Second Regular Session, at which time the bill was enacted as Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 52, effective January 29, 1996.

LD 1598 **Resolve, to Amend Provisions of the Androscoggin County Budget Process** RESOLVE 58
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)
CLEVELAND

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1598 was not referred to committee. The bill proposed to repeal a law enacted last year that required the Androscoggin County Commissioners to prepare and submit an 18-month budget.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1995, chapter 58 repeals a law enacted last year that required the Androscoggin County Commissioners, beginning in 1996, to prepare and submit an 18-month budget.

Chapter 58 was enacted as an emergency measure effective December 7, 1995.

LD 1599 **An Act to Temporarily Reestablish Eligibility Standards for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance** P & S 51
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)
GERRY
WHITCOMB

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1599 was not referred to committee. The bill proposed that the Maine State Housing Authority extend eligibility under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program on the same basis as during the 1994-95 heating season. The bill also directed the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources to hold a public hearing on the issues raised by the recent changes in eligibility standards by January 31, 1996 and authorized the committee to report out legislation and other recommendations not later than March 1, 1996.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 51 directs the Maine State Housing Authority to extend eligibility under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program on the same basis as during the 1994-95 heating season. Chapter 51 also directs the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources to hold a public hearing on the issues raised by the recent changes in eligibility standards by January 31, 1996 and authorizes the committee to report out legislation and other recommendations not later than March 1, 1996. LD 1875 was reported out by the Human Resources Committee as a result. See Human Resources Committee bill summaries for the Second Regular Session for a discussion of that bill.

Chapter 51 was enacted as an emergency measure effective December 1, 1995