

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

JUNE 1996

MEMBERS:

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Sen. David L. Carpenter

Sen. Susan W. Longley

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**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR 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:

<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 finally passed 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>

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 4, 1996.

LD 1612 An Act to Repeal the Requirement that Disbursement Warrants Receive an Affirmative Vote by Municipal Officers PUBLIC 549 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> AMERO	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-421 S-444
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LD 1612 proposed to repeal the language added by Public Law 1995, chapter 83 that requires an affirmative vote of the municipal officers on the disbursement warrant, in addition to the signatures of a majority of those officers, in order for the municipal treasurer to disburse money.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-421) requires municipal funds to be disbursed only by warrant affirmatively voted and signed by a majority of the municipal officers. The bill would have removed the requirement of an affirmative vote. This amendment proposed to retain the requirements of current law but would have allowed municipalities to provide by charter or ordinance for alternative methods of authorizing the municipal treasurer to disburse funds.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-444) proposed to add an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 549 allows municipalities to provide by charter or ordinance for a method of authorizing the municipal treasurer to disburse funds other than by warrant voted on and signed by a majority of the municipal officers. The law was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 20, 1996.

LD 1615 An Act to Amend the Piscataquis County Budget Process PUBLIC 520

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HALL	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-423
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LD 1615 proposed to amend the Piscataquis County budget process to remove legislative involvement.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-423) proposed to clarify that the county commissioners have final approval authority over the budget and any amendments to the budget.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 520 removes the requirement that the Piscataquis County budget be approved by the Legislature. The county commissioners have final authority over the county budget.

LD 1617 An Act to Establish the Penobscot County Budget Committee PUBLIC 682

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HALL	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-476 S-586
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LD 1617 proposed to establish the Penobscot County Budget Committee.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-476) proposed several changes to the bill. It would have:

1. Changed the selection process for the county legislative delegation members of the budget committee so that they are chosen by the county delegation;
2. Required the county commissioners and budget committee to explain the proposed county budget to the legislative delegation at a meeting called by the chair of the legislative delegation;
3. Changed the vote needed for the budget committee to override changes made by the county commissioners in the budget committee's recommended budget from 4/5 of the committee's membership to 2/3;
4. Clarified that the budget as finalized by the county commissioners and budget committee is the authorization for the assessment of county taxes;
5. Repealed the budget committee on December 31, 1999; and
6. Added a fiscal note.

House Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-855) would have made the municipal official and the legislative delegation members to the Penobscot County Budget Committee nonvoting members. (Not adopted)

House Amendment "B" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-883) would have specified that the municipal official be an elected municipal official and makes the legislative delegation members to the Penobscot County Budget Committee nonvoting members. (Not adopted)

Senate Amendment "A" (S-586) would have provided a General Fund appropriation to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services of \$1,000 in fiscal year 1996-97 to provide additional funds for the local costs associated with the Penobscot County Budget Committee including additional advertising, postage and printing costs.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 682 establishes the 15-member Penobscot County Budget Committee. The budget committee includes 3 members of the county legislative delegation selected by the delegation, and the budget must be presented to the delegation each year by the county commissioners and budget committee. The county commissioners approve the county budget, except that the budget committee may override changes made in the committee's recommendations by a 2/3 vote of the full membership of the committee.

LD 1679 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Computer Information Systems INDEF PP

Sponsor(s)
GWADOSKY

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

LD 1679 would have established the Commission to Study the Use of the Legislative Computer System to review the appropriate use of the Legislative computer information system. The