

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**JUNE 1996**

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Sen. W. John Hathaway  
Sen. Richard P. Ruhlin*

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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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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.

wastewater disposal systems be in substantial compliance with, or be brought into substantial compliance with, state wastewater disposal rules.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 642, the omnibus bill submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection, makes a number of changes in the laws implemented by DEP, including the following:

- (1) Extends the repeal date of the Maine Environmental Protection Fund fee schedule to 90 days after adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature;
- (2) Allows the limited use of copper compounds and other algicides in situations where lake restoration technologies have been tried, no additional restoration programs are available, and use will not harm fisheries management plans;
- (3) Clarifies when ownership of a corporation changes and permits must be transferred;
- (4) Provides liability protection for persons who voluntarily assist in responding to and cleaning up a discharge of hazardous matter; and
- (5) Repeals the requirement for DEP to review low-level radioactive waste facilities, unless the facility falls under the threshold of other general DEP permitting laws, such as the Site Location of Development Law, removes the Commissioner of Environmental Protection from the Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste and clarifies that approval of a low-level radioactive waste facility by the Legislature does not exempt the facility owner or operator from the need to obtain other licenses and approvals required by law.

Chapter 642 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 10, 1996.

**LD 1721**

**Resolve, to Form a Task Force to Examine Methods of Reimbursing Automobile Owners for Emissions Testing and Consequent Repair Costs**

ONTP

<u>Sponsors(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLEVELAND	ONTP MAJ	
ADAMS	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1721 proposed to create a task force to examine methods of reimbursing persons for test fees and repair costs incurred as a result of the auto emissions testing program required by state law in 1994 and repealed in 1995. The Task Force would also examine ways to alleviate costs that may be imposed upon motor vehicle owners under any testing program imposed in the future under requirements of federal law.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-442)**, the minority report of the committee, which was not adopted, proposed to limit the scope of the Task Force to a study of methods of reimbursing motor vehicle owners for test fees paid for the emissions testing program repealed in 1995.