

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

JUNE 1996

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait

Sen. Alton E. Cianchette

Rep. G. Steven Rowe, Chair

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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.

2. It would have directed the Finance Authority of Maine to solicit funding from private industry to promote a Create Your Own Business Program, using as a model the similarly named program in Wisconsin.

**LD 1767 An Act to Revise the Sunrise Review Process
for Occupational and Professional Regulation**

PUBLIC 686

Sponsor(s)
ROWE

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-877

LD 1767 proposed to require that a person desiring that a profession or occupation be regulated submit an application containing the answers to questions similar to those in Title 5, section 12015, subsection 3 to the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation, who is required to assemble a technical committee to make a recommendation on the application. The commissioner was to attach the department's recommendation and forward this material to the appropriate legislative committee.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-877) proposed to follow the current law except that applicant groups would be required to answer the questions and except that it would have allowed the committee of reference to request the commissioner or a technical committee to initially evaluate whether or not the applicant's answers are sufficient to justify regulation. The commissioner would then prepare a report including any necessary implementing legislation. The commissioner would be able to recommend that no legislative action be taken on a proposal.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 686 follows the current law except that professions wishing to be regulated are required to answer the justification questions and except that it allows the committee of reference to request the commissioner of the Department of Professional & Financial Regulation or a technical committee to initially evaluate whether or not the applicant's answers are sufficient to justify regulation. The commissioner is then to prepare a report including any necessary implementing legislation. The commissioner may recommend that no legislative action be taken on a proposal.

**LD 1801 An Act to Provide for the 1996 and 1997 Allocations of the
State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds**

P & S 61
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)
GWADOSKY

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1801 proposed to establish the allocations of the state ceiling on issuance of tax-exempt bonds for calendar years 1996 and 1997. Under federal law, a maximum of \$150,000,000 in tax-exempt bonds benefiting private individuals or entities may be issued in this State each year. Chapter 61 proposed to allocate the state ceiling among the state issuers of tax-exempt bonds.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law, chapter 61 establishes the allocations of the state ceiling on issuance of tax-exempt bonds for calendar years 1996 and 1997. Under federal law, a maximum of \$150,000,000 in tax-exempt bonds benefiting private individuals or entities may be issued in this

State each year. Chapter 61 allocates the state ceiling among the state issuers of tax-exempt bonds.

LD 1802 **An Act to Consolidate and Improve Delivery of International Trade Services in Maine** PUBLIC 648
EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GWADOSKY BUTLAND	OTP-AM	H-789

The purpose of LD 1802 was to merge the functions of the Maine World Trade Association, the Maine Education and Training Export Partnership and the International Commerce Division of the Department of Economic and Community Development into one entity called the Maine International Trade Center, or the Center.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-789) proposed to make the bill emergency legislation except for the provisions that repeal the existing international trade agencies. It proposed to require that the International Trade Director be confirmed by the Legislature on initial appointment. It proposed to add a revenue-neutral appropriations section, which merely transfers existing funds to the new organization.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 648 merges the functions of the Maine World Trade Association, the Maine Education and Training Export Partnership and the International Commerce Division of the Department of Economic and Community Development into one entity called the Maine International Trade Center, or the Center.

The Center's responsibility is to provide services to citizens and industry to assist international trade. The purpose of the Center, through its public and private board, is to refine, revise and implement the international strategic plan for the State.

The board of directors of the Center is to be a public and private partnership, with the majority of the board being representative of the private sector. Funding for the Center is to come from a combination of private and public funds. Subject to legislative confirmation, the Governor is to appoint a Maine International Trade Director who reports to the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and is responsible for developing international trade. This individual, if confirmed by the board of the newly formed Maine International Trade Center, also becomes president and board member of that Center and must be reconfirmed by the board as president every 2 years.

LD 1813 **An Act to Make Changes in the Beverage Container Deposit Laws** ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	ONTP MAJ	
	OTP MIN	

LD 1813, recommended by the Task Force to Review the Beverage Container Laws, which was established by the Business & Economic Development Committee in response to the many bills it