

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

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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.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 606 creates a new license category of optometrists known as the "advanced therapeutic license" and sets forth the educational and consultative requirements of that license. Advanced therapeutic licensees may treat glaucoma and prescribe oral medications to treat ocular diseases other than glaucoma as specifically set forth. Current therapeutic licensees must upgrade their licenses to advanced therapeutic licenses within 3 years.

Chapter 606 creates a glaucoma consultation subcommittee comprised of 2 optometrists and 2 physicians to review the glaucoma-related consultation requirements

LD 1831

An Act to Create the Small Enterprise Growth Program

PUBLIC 699

Sponsor(s)

KONTOS
HARRIMAN
ROWE

Committee Report

OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

H-844

LD 1831 proposed to create the Small Enterprise Growth Program, which would provide financing for small businesses that show a strong potential for providing additional quality employment for people of this State, but need assistance in accessing necessary capital.

The bill proposed to create an 11-member board consisting of persons with expertise in matters relating to the financing of growth-stage companies, plus the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development.

Funding would have been provided in the amount of \$5 million from general obligation bonding under Private & Special Law 1995, chapter 81. It would have been used to capitalize a revolving loan fund. Private investments could also have been accepted.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-844) proposed to do the following:

1. Make clear that the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee is a voting member of the Small Enterprise Growth Board;
2. Make clear that the fund may accept investments;
3. Restrict those instances in which the board may hold an ownership interest in a private enterprise;
4. Make clear that retail sales, tourism and agricultural production are among those businesses that may qualify for a loan;
5. Add inability to obtain private financing as a criterion for qualifying for a loan; and
6. Take away from subcommittees the authority to approve loans;

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 699 creates the Small Enterprise Growth Program, which would provide financing for small businesses that show a strong potential for providing additional quality employment for people of this State, but have been unable to obtain private capital.

The bill creates an 11-member board consisting of persons with expertise in matters relating to the financing of growth-stage companies and the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development. The board will administer the Small Enterprise Growth Program. The board may provide loans up to \$150,000 to qualifying small businesses engaged in marine science, biotechnology, manufacturing, activities that result in a significant amount of capital being imported into the State, software development, provision or development of environmental services or technologies, provision or development of financial or insurance products or services, retail sales, tourism, agricultural production, production of value-added goods from natural resources, or other businesses that offer the potential of significant growth and public benefits. Businesses must match the loans under the program in cash on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

The board may provide flexible repayment terms for all disbursements from the fund. Repayment terms may include an interest in one or more products of the enterprise assisted, a percentage of sales or rights in ownership interest. The purpose of this form of repayment is to help ensure that the return from successful businesses will offset losses from those that are not successful. Funding is to be provided through a \$5,000,000 General Obligation Bond Fund which will capitalize a revolving loan fund under Private & Special Law 1995, chapter 81. Private investments may also be accepted.

**LD 1852 An Act to Establish the Board of Complementary Health Care PUBLIC 671
Providers and to Regulate the Practice of Naturopathic
Medicine**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM MAJ	H-860
	ONTP MIN	S-554

LD 1852 proposed to establish a consolidated professional regulatory board called the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers to regulate acupuncturists and naturopathic doctors. The current laws regulating acupuncturists would be transferred to the newly established board. Only those licensed by the Board would have been able to use a term derived from “naturopathic” and the initials ND. (The term “naturopath” was not included in the list; initials, such as NMD, were also not included in the list.) The use of the term physician would have been prohibited. To qualify for licensure an applicant would have to be a graduate of an approved medical board college accredited by the Federal Government. The licensee would be prohibited from prescribing controlled drugs

Committee Amendment "A" (H-860) proposed to accomplish the following:

1. Make it clear that it is the practice of naturopathy, not just the title, that is being licensed;
2. Strengthen the regulatory board's control over the use of drugs by naturopaths;
3. Eliminate childbirth from the scope of practice of naturopaths; and