

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
AND
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

MAY 1998

MEMBERS:

Sen. Michael H. Michaud, Chair
Sen. John J. Cleveland
Sen. Richard A. Bennett

Rep. George J. Kerr, Chair
Rep. Thomas E. Poulin
Rep. Elizabeth Townsend
Rep. Kathleen A. Stevens
Rep. Randall L. Berry
Rep. Patricia Lemaire
Rep. David N. Ott
Rep. Richard Kneeland
Rep. Jean Ginn Marvin
Rep. Tom J. Winsor

Staff:

Jim Clair, Deputy Director

Office of Fiscal and Program Review
Room 225, 5 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1635



Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
 Telephone: (207) 287-1670
 Fax: (207) 287-1275

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 1998

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

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:

- CON RES 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 IN CONCURRENCE*.....One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
- EMERGENCY*.....Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....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
- OTP ND*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
- OTP ND/NT*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
- P&S XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
- PUBLIC XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
- RESOLVE XXX*..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
- UNSIGNED*.....Bill held by Governor
- VETO SUSTAINED*.....Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

LD 890

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine to Establish a Reserve Fund**

ONTP

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

LD 890 proposed to establish a General Fund reserve fund. The fund would have been used to cover actual or projected General Fund revenue shortfalls in any state fiscal year; for prepayment of outstanding General Fund bonds; for prepayment of any unfunded liabilities of the Maine State Retirement System related to state government employees or teachers; and for major construction projects exceeding \$1,000,000.

LD 1540

An Act to Establish a State Disaster Relief Trust Fund

**DIED BETWEEN
BODIES**

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

LD 1540 proposed to establish a disaster relief trust fund to be administered by the Maine Emergency Management Agency to match federal disaster assistance funds and provide other local disaster assistance. The trust fund would have been funded by a surcharge on homeowners' and business property insurance policies.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-846) proposed to strike those provisions of the bill that would have capitalized the Disaster Relief Trust Fund by imposing a surcharge on homeowners' and business property insurance policies. In its place are provisions that would have allowed the fund to receive General Fund appropriations, transfers from the General Fund at the end of a fiscal year in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 in any fiscal year, any federal money deposited in the fund and all interest earned on the fund's balance.

The amendment authorized the Disaster Relief Trust Fund to be the first resource utilized when the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 742, regarding emergency proclamation or Title 37-B, section 744, regarding disaster relief, is invoked by the Governor.

The amendment also added a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1658

**An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Implement a
Statewide Economic Improvement Strategy**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE	ONTP	
MITCHELL E		

LD 1658 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$17,000,000, that would have been used for major facilities improvements, construction and equipment purchases for research and development necessary to implement a statewide economic improvement strategy. These funds would have been used to support research and development