

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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:

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Sen. John J. Cleveland
Sen. Richard A. Bennett

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Staff:

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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.

An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and Changes to Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1998 and June 30, 1999

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KERR	OTP-AM MAJ	H-1098
MICHAUD	OTP-AM MIN	H-1109 KERR H-1111 TRIPP

LD 1950 proposed the following:

PART A:

1. Proposed supplemental appropriations from the General Fund;
2. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Highway Fund;
3. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Federal Expenditure Fund;
4. Proposed supplemental allocations from Other Special Revenue funds;
5. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Federal Block Grant Fund;
6. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Office of Information Services Fund;
7. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Workers' Compensation Management Fund;
8. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Real Property Lease Internal Service Fund;
9. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Island Ferry Services Fund;
10. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Alcoholic Beverage Fund; and
11. Proposed supplemental allocations from the State Lottery Fund.

PART B:

1. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes;
2. Proposed allocations from the Federal Expenditure Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes;
3. Proposed allocations from Other Special Revenue funds for approved reclassifications and range changes;
4. Proposed allocations from the Federal Block Grant Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes; and

5. Proposed allocations from the Office of Information Services Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART C:

Part C proposed appropriations from the General Fund as reductions to support approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART D:

1. Amended the law that lapses funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98;
2. Specified the General Purpose Aid actual education cost certification and appropriation level for fiscal year 1998-99 as required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15506; and
3. Lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1998-99.

PART E:

1. Amended the law to change the due date of the 4-year forecast of revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and the Highway Fund;
2. Amended the law to authorize a transfer from the Maine Rainy Day Fund for the settlement of a federal claim for the overpayment of retirement contributions;
3. Amended the law to allow for the increase of per diem expenses for the State Board of Property Tax Review;
4. Amended the law to authorize the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to sell or lease certain state properties;
5. Amended the law to authorize the Bureau of General Services to use the proceeds of the sale of state properties to pay for ongoing expenses related to the properties;
6. Repealed that portion of the law that authorizes the issuance of a tax anticipation note for fiscal year 1997-98;
7. Amended the law to allow the restructuring of the Bureau of Information Services rates to be applied to all affected funds;
8. Amended the law to authorize unencumbered balances in the Systems Project Account of the Bureau of Accounts and Control to carry forward to June 30, 1999;
9. Lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98;
10. Authorized the proceeds from the sale of any portion of the Pineland Complex to be used for the ongoing costs associated with the ownership of the facility;
11. Authorized the transfer of funds from the salary plan accounts for the purpose of meeting the cost of authorized market salary adjustments; and

12. Authorized the Bureau of Information Services in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to implement a pilot career-banding project in fiscal year 1998-99.

PART F:

1. Amended the law to specify that the Judicial Department must budget funds in future biennia to pay the Bureau of Revenue Services for services provided;
2. Established the Maine Revenue Services Fund as an Internal Service Fund;
3. Authorized the Bureau of Revenue Services Internal Services Fund to retain sufficient funds from Judicial Department collections to pay for services provided during the 1998-1999 biennium;
4. Authorized the Governor to transfer positions from the Bureau of Revenue Services General Fund account to the Maine Revenue Services Internal Service Fund account; and
5. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund to the Maine Revenue Services Fund as a working capital advance.

PART G:

1. Amended the law as it relates to the appointment of the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner;
2. Amended the law to authorize the salary of the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner to be set by the Chief Medical Examiner with the approval of the Governor; and
3. Amended the law to authorize the Chief Medical Examiner and the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner to establish a private practice.

PART H:

1. Amended the law to establish the Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands at pay range 89; and
2. Amended the law to correct the percentage distribution of revenues credited to the ATV Recreation Management Fund.

PART I:

1. Amended the law that authorizes the Adjutant General to sell certain armories;
2. Amended the law to remove the acreage restriction for the purchase of land for the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery; and
3. Authorized the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to establish positions for the Loring Rebuild Facility.

PART J:

Part J amended the law relating to the funds carried forward by the Office of the Public Advocate.

PART K:

Part K lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98.

PART L:

Part L amended the law to authorize certain toxic waste fees to continue.

PART M:

Part M amended the law to implement the recommendations of the Judicial Compensation Commission.

PART N:

1. Amended the law that specifies the distribution of year end balances in the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services;
2. Amended the law to correct program names; and
3. Established a process for the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to change the listing of positions to be eliminated at the Bangor Mental Health Institute.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098), the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, removed the emergency preamble and emergency clause and proposed the following.

PART A:

1. Proposed supplemental appropriations from the General Fund;
2. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Highway Fund;
3. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Federal Expenditure Fund;
4. Proposed supplemental allocations from Other Special Revenue funds;
5. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Federal Block Grant Fund;
6. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Office of Information Services Fund;
7. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Workers' Compensation Management Fund;
8. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Real Property Lease Internal Service Fund;
9. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Island Ferry Services Fund;
10. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Alcoholic Beverage Fund; and
11. Proposed supplemental allocations from the State Lottery Fund.

PART B:

1. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes;
2. Proposed allocations from the Federal Expenditure Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes;
3. Proposed allocations from Other Special Revenue funds for approved reclassifications and range changes;
4. Proposed allocations from the Federal Block Grant Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes; and
5. Proposed allocations from the Office of Information Services Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART C:

This Part proposed appropriations from the General Fund as reductions to support approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART D:

1. It specified the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools actual education cost certification and appropriation levels for fiscal year 1998-99 as required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15605.
2. It established the method to distribute the 1998-99 hardship cushion.
3. It changed the calculation to establish a school administrative unit's weighted relative fiscal capacity.
4. It repealed the provisions that limit the Commissioner of Education's recommended school subsidy level and the amount appropriated by the Legislature for school subsidy to 105% of the appropriation of the previous fiscal year. In its place would be a requirement that specified that the appropriation request for General Purpose Aid for Local Schools be "flat funded" in the current services budget bill, Part 1, for the next biennium. Any additional appropriations would be requested in a supplemental appropriations budget bill, Part 2.
5. It required that the fiscal year 1998-99 General Purpose Aid for Local Schools funding level be reduced by \$16,660,478 for the purpose of calculating the recommended funding level for the 2000-2001 biennium.
6. It lapsed available balances in the Education in the Unorganized Territory account to the General Fund in fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99.
7. It increased the adult education subsidy in fiscal year 1998-99 by an additional 2%.
8. It lapsed construction aid recoveries to the General Fund and deappropriates funds in fiscal year 1997-98 from General Purpose Aid for Local Schools to offset appropriations for services for preschool handicapped children.
9. It provided a General Fund appropriation to the State Board of Education for additional research and technical assistance needs of the Essential Programs and Services Study Committee. It also provided \$75,000 to the Legislature for the Education Research Institute to increase funding for targeted research needs. Finally, the

amendment deappropriated \$100,000 from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to offset these costs.

PART E:

1. This Part amended the law to increase the "cap" of the Maine Rainy Day Fund to 5% and allowed the State Controller to transfer certain funds from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Rainy Day Fund without an appropriation.
2. This Part amended the law to authorize a transfer from the Maine Rainy Day Fund for the settlement of a federal claim for the overpayment of retirement contributions.
3. This Part amended the law to change the due date of the 4-year forecast of revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and the Highway Fund.
4. This Part amended the law to allow for the increase of per diem expenses for the State Board of Property Tax Review.
5. This Part repealed that portion of the law that authorizes the issuance of a tax anticipation note for fiscal year 1997-98.
6. This Part amended the law to allow the restructuring of the Bureau of Information Services rates to be applied to all affected funds.
7. This Part lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98.
8. This Part authorized the transfer of funds from the salary plan accounts for the purpose of meeting the cost of authorized market salary adjustments.
9. This Part authorized the Bureau of Information Services in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to implement a pilot career-banding project in fiscal year 1998-99.
10. This Part authorized the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into lease-purchase arrangements to acquire vehicles for the Central Motor Pool.
11. This Part established that certain revenue reprojections for fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99 will not increase funds for the Maine Rainy Day Fund, the Retirement Allowance Fund and the Property Tax Relief Fund.

PART F:

1. Amended the law to specify that the Judicial Department must budget funds in future biennia to pay the Bureau of Revenue Services for services provided;
2. Established the Revenue Services Fund as an Internal Service Fund;
3. Authorized the Bureau of Revenue Services, Internal Services Fund account to retain sufficient funds from Judicial Department collections to pay for services provided during the 1998-1999 biennium;

4. Authorized the Governor to transfer positions from the Bureau of Revenue Services General Fund account to the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund, Internal Services Fund account; and
5. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund to the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund as a working capital advance.

PART G:

1. Amended the law to authorize the salary of the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner to be set in salary range 56 of the Standard Salary Schedule for Medical Personnel as published by the Bureau of Human Resources.

PART H:

1. Amended the law to establish the Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands at pay range 89; and
2. Amended the law to correct the percentage distribution of revenues credited to the ATV Recreational Management Fund.

PART I:

This Part authorized the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to establish positions for the Loring Rebuild Facility.

PART J:

This Part amended the law relating to the funds carried forward by the Office of the Public Advocate.

PART K:

This Part lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98.

Public Law 1997, chapter 24, Part I, section 13 authorized the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to achieve at least \$240,000 in "Personal Services" savings during each fiscal year of the 1998-1999 biennium. This Part would have allowed the department to achieve \$480,000 in "Personal Services" savings over the 1998-1999 biennium.

PART L:

This Part amended the law to authorize certain toxic waste fees to continue.

PART M:

This Part reduced the salary increases for judges and justices from those recommended by the Judicial Compensation Commission. It delayed any cost-of-living adjustment until July 1, 1999. It avoided any unfunded liability for the judicial retirement system by establishing a "blended cap" on retirement benefits, applying the 70% cap to only the service credit earned on or after July 1, 1998.

PART N:

1. Amended the law that specifies the distribution of year end balances in the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services;
2. Amended the law to correct program names;
3. Established a process for the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to change the listing of positions to be eliminated at the Bangor Mental Health Institute;
4. Authorized the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to include in its base budget costs associated with operating a hospital outpatient dental clinic in Aroostook County;
5. Required consolidation of certain units at the Bangor Mental Health Institute; and
6. Required strategic plans related to the Bangor Mental Health Institute.

PART O:

This Part authorized that General Fund appropriations for the Welfare to Work program in the Department of Labor are nonlapsing through June 30, 1999.

PART P:

This Part authorized that funds received by the State from the Maine State Employees Association as reimbursement for the union related activities of the current president of the association may be deposited as revenue to the Probation and Parole, Other Special Revenue account in the Department Corrections and may be used for acting capacity positions for the duration of the term of the current president in the 1998-1999 biennium.

PART Q:

This Part increased the salary grade of the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and upgraded the Director of the Military Bureau to a Deputy Commissioner who serves at the pleasure of the commissioner.

PART R:

This Part reduced the amortization period for the unfunded actuarial liability of the Maine State Retirement System as of July 1, 1998 from the remaining 30 years of a 35-year period to a 25-year period.

PART S:

This Part transferred, then appropriated, funds from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund for a number of purposes.

PART T:

This Part implemented the following changes to the Maine Revised Statutes, effective June 30, 1999.

1. It repealed the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents.

2. It repealed the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund.
3. It authorized any unencumbered balance in either fund to lapse to the General Fund.

PART U:

This Part allowed state departments and agencies to accept payment for goods and services by major credit cards.

PART V:

Public Law 1991, chapter 121, Part A, section 7 required that all state departments, agencies and offices be closed on May 10, 1991 and May 24, 1991. All state employees, even those "essential employees" who were required to work on those days, were not compensated for those days or, for some employees who worked alternative work schedules, were not compensated for two other days during the affected pay cycles. The law specified that those state employees were to be compensated for the two "closed" days when they left state service.

This Part provided authority for those affected state employees who remain in state service to be paid for those 2 days in fiscal year 1997-98 rather than when they leave state service. It provides a General Fund appropriation for the cost of General Fund employees. It also provided a General Fund appropriation for the cost of Highway Fund employees. Lastly, it authorized the State Budget Officer to adjust allotments in accounts in other funding sources so that state employees in those accounts would be paid as well.

PART W:

This Part added the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs to the list of the recipients of the various reports of the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission.

PART X:

Public Law 1997, chapter 24, Part S, section 1 authorized the use of \$2,100,000 from available balances at the end of fiscal year 1996-97 to be used to meet the actuarial and accumulated interest costs for 8 school administrative units.

Given that additional interest costs continued to accrue beyond the original date of settlement, that is, July 1, 1997, an additional amount of approximately \$50,000 is needed to settle all costs. This Part authorized the Maine State Retirement System to use the first sums transferred or appropriated to the Retirement Allowance Fund established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 to finally settle the cost of these early retirement incentives.

PART Y:

This Part eliminated the current prohibition on establishing most positions administratively. Agencies of State Government would be able to create limited period or other temporary positions by financial order if the position established had an end date not to exceed the statutory adjournment date of the next regular session of the Legislature.

PART Z:

This Part provided a supplemental General Fund appropriation of \$15,000 to the St. Croix International Waterway Commission. The current appropriation is \$10,000 in fiscal year 1997-98 and fiscal year 1998-99.

PART AA:

This Part provided clarifying language that specifies that oil pipelines and other oil off-loading facilities are limited to sites in Portland and Searsport harbors.

This Part established a statewide transportation infrastructure strategy for funds repaid to the Maine Port Authority for the redevelopment of Mack Point.

This Part provided nonlapsing language for a General Fund appropriation that provides funds to develop a cargo port at Mack Point.

This Part allocated funds from the sale of steel to be used for the development of a cargo port at Mack Point.

PART BB:

This Part directed the Department of Transportation to study several aspects related to the development of a west-east highway. It also clarified that this project will neither detract from nor diminish the commitment of the Department of Transportation or the State to the maintenance and upkeep of existing roadways.

This Part required the State Planning Office, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Economic and Community Development to study a number of economic issues associated with the development of a west-east highway.

PART CC:

This Part provided for several economic development initiatives.

PART DD:

This Part authorized the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue up to \$5,500,000 in securities.

PART EE:

This Part amended that provision in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4 that allows the General Fund to receive 20% of the nondesignated Alternative Dispute Resolution Services resources. The Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Service Fund would be allowed to retain all of those resources in order to meet the costs of providing ADR services.

PART FF:

This Part provided funds for information technology, capital equipment and facility improvements to the Maine Technical College System.

PART GG:

This Part provided a \$100,000 General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 1997-98 to assist the University of Maine at Fort Kent in constructing and relocating a facility for forestry and environmental programs. It also clarified the location and lease provisions associated with the facility.

PART HH:

This Part provided for an increase in the maximum grant size in the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program from \$500 to \$1,000 for students attending public institutions of higher education and prohibited the institution from reducing grant aid to the student as a result of the receipt of the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Grant.

This Part repealed the requirement that grants to private institutions of higher education must be 2 times the amount of grants to public institutions of higher education.

This Part added an appropriation of \$4,000,000 to the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program.

PART II:

This Part directed the Department of Human Services to recommend programmatic and financial divisions within the Medical Care - Payments to Providers program to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs no later than January 8, 1999.

PART JJ:

This Part provided supplemental funding for adult day care, Alzheimer's respite and the consumer-directed home based care program within the Department of Labor.

PART KK:

This Part repealed Public Law 1997, chapter 560, Part F. The Part, comprised of 3 sections, established a "Health Care Fund for Maine Citizens," funding for which would come from any award or settlement received by the State from a tobacco company pursuant to an action brought by the State against cigarette manufacturers. Absent this language, any award or settlement received by the State will be deposited in the General Fund.

PART LL:

This Part authorized the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 to the University of Maine System toward the Maine Economic Improvement Strategy at the end of fiscal year 1997-98.

PART MM:

This Part deleted that provision that allowed the Federal-State Inspection Fund to retain all interest earnings in fiscal year 1997-98 only.

PART NN:

This Part repealed those provisions from Public Law 1995, chapter 502, Part C that unclassified certain positions at the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. It also provided authorization for the establishment of another Deputy Commissioner position within the Department of Marine Resources.

PART OO:

This Part provided a General Fund appropriation to the Department of Education's Retired Teachers' Health Insurance account in order to increase the State's share of retired educators' health insurance premiums to 30% on January 1, 1999.

PART PP:

This Part implemented collective bargaining agreements for certain employees within the Judicial Department.

PART QQ:

This Part revised the statutes to provide expenses to members of the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board. It required each island municipality to appoint one alternate member to the board.

This Part also provided the Department of Transportation with an Island Ferry Service Fund allocation of \$5,000 in fiscal year 1997-98 and \$20,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 to cover the expenses of the members of the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board.

PART RR:

This Part provided the Department of Human Services with a \$2,000,000 appropriation to include additional medications to be determined by the department to the elderly low-cost drug program. It directed the department to pursue a Medicaid waiver to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits.

PART SS:

This Part required the Department of Corrections and the Department of Education to review all educational programs at the Maine Youth Center and to prepare a school approval corrective action plan.

PART TT:

This Part required the Department of Corrections and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to review all mental health programs within state-operated juvenile correctional facilities and to prepare a mental health action plan.

PART UU:

This Part articulated the intent of the Legislature to reduce the General Fund subsidy to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in the 2000-2001 biennium and directed the director of the academy to develop a plan to reduce the academy's reliance on the General Fund.

PART VV:

This Part authorized a 5% increase in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits for certain recipients. It also required the Department of Human Services to seek reimbursement under Medicaid for certain targeted case management expenditures.

PART WW:

As a result of passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, many immigrants who are legally residing in the United States will no longer be eligible for assistance from the federal supplemental security income program. This Part provided state assistance to aged, blind and disabled legal immigrants who will no longer be eligible for assistance from the federal supplemental security income program.

PART XX:

This Part implemented the recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities. It required homeless shelter operators, mental health providers, substance abuse services providers and Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services regional housing coordinators to prepare plans to ensure that persons with mental illness or substance abuse problems, or both, who are in homeless shelters are provided with services for mental health and substance abuse problems. The Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and the Maine State Housing Authority were directed to provide training for mental health, substance abuse services and homeless shelter providers. It increased funding for the shelter operating subsidy fund in the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund.

PART YY:

This Part established the Lakes Assessment and Protection Program within the Department of Environmental Protection. In implementing the program, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection would conduct activities including education and technical assistance, resource monitoring and research and compliance monitoring and enforcement. In establishing priorities for these activities, the commissioner would consider the recommendations of the Great Pond Task Force and the priorities established by the Land and Water Resources Council.

The Part also appropriated \$451,516 from the General Fund to provide funds for 4 positions and support costs to carry out the Lakes Assessment and Protection Program.

PART ZZ:

This Part required a \$125,000 payment from the Risk Management Fund to Dan Corey and Nu Seed Corporation in settlement of losses suffered as a result of the decertification of the 1996 seed potato crop.

PART AAA:

This Part established and provided money to the Capital Construction and Improvements Reserve Fund.

PART BBB:

This Part provided funding to replace lost federal school-to-work funds, thereby preventing the shutdown of 14 school sites and the elimination of dropout prevention, dropout recovery and school-to-work or college transition services to 580 Maine students.

PART CCC:

This Part enabled the Maine Technical College System to continue to provide a statewide work-based learning program for Maine's youth by appropriating money to continue the Maine Career Advantage Program. This appropriation would allow the program to retain its current level of services throughout the State.

PART DDD:

This Part included a General Fund appropriation of \$425,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 to expand the activities of the Maine apprenticeship program. It also included a deallocation of federal funds that is necessary to reflect the increased General Fund commitment.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-1099), the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, removed the emergency preamble and emergency clause and proposed the following.

PART A:

1. Proposed supplemental appropriations from the General Fund;
2. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Highway Fund;
3. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Federal Expenditure Fund;
4. Proposed supplemental allocations from Other Special Revenue funds;
5. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Federal Block Grant Fund;
6. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Office of Information Services Fund;
7. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Workers' Compensation Management Fund;
8. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Real Property Lease Internal Service Fund;
9. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Island Ferry Services Fund;
10. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Alcoholic Beverage Fund; and
11. Proposed supplemental allocations from the State Lottery Fund.

PART B:

1. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes;
2. Proposed allocations from the Federal Expenditure Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes;

3. Proposed allocations from Other Special Revenue funds for approved reclassifications and range changes;
4. Proposed allocations from the Federal Block Grant Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes; and
5. Proposed allocations from the Office of Information Services Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART C:

This Part proposed appropriations from the General Fund as reductions to support approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART D:

1. It specified the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools actual education cost certification and appropriation levels for fiscal year 1998-99 as required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15605.
2. It established the method to distribute the 1998-99 hardship cushion.
3. It changed the calculation to establish a school administrative unit's weighted relative fiscal capacity.
4. It repealed the provisions that limit the Commissioner of Education's recommended school subsidy level and the amount appropriated by the Legislature for school subsidy to 105% of the appropriation of the previous fiscal year. In its place would be a requirement that specified that the appropriation request for General Purpose Aid for Local Schools be "flat funded" in the current services budget bill, Part 1, for the next biennium. Any additional appropriations would be requested in a supplemental appropriations budget bill, Part 2.
5. It required that the fiscal year 1998-99 General Purpose Aid for Local Schools funding level be reduced by \$16,660,478 for the purpose of calculating the recommended funding level for the 2000-2001 biennium.
6. It lapsed available balances in the Education in the Unorganized Territory account to the General Fund in fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99.
7. It increased the adult education subsidy in fiscal year 1998-99 by an additional 2%.
8. It lapsed construction aid recoveries to the General Fund and deappropriates funds in fiscal year 1997-98 from General Purpose Aid for Local Schools to offset appropriations for services for preschool handicapped children.
9. It provided a General Fund appropriation to the State Board of Education for additional research and technical assistance needs of the Essential Programs and Services Study Committee. It also provided \$75,000 to the Legislature for the Education Research Institute to increase funding for targeted research needs. Finally, the amendment deappropriated \$100,000 from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to offset these costs.

PART E:

1. This Part amended the law to increase the "cap" of the Maine Rainy Day Fund to 5% and allowed the State Controller to transfer certain funds from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Rainy Day Fund without an appropriation.

2. This Part amended the law to authorize a transfer from the Maine Rainy Day Fund for the settlement of a federal claim for the overpayment of retirement contributions.
3. This Part amended the law to change the due date of the 4-year forecast of revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and the Highway Fund.
4. This Part amended the law to allow for the increase of per diem expenses for the State Board of Property Tax Review.
5. This Part repealed that portion of the law that authorizes the issuance of a tax anticipation note for fiscal year 1997-98.
6. This Part amended the law to allow the restructuring of the Bureau of Information Services rates to be applied to all affected funds.
7. This Part lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98.
8. This Part authorized the transfer of funds from the salary plan accounts for the purpose of meeting the cost of authorized market salary adjustments.
9. This Part authorized the Bureau of Information Services in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to implement a pilot career-banding project in fiscal year 1998-99.
10. This Part authorized the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into lease-purchase arrangements to acquire vehicles for the Central Motor Pool.
11. This Part established that certain revenue rejections for fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99 will not increase funds for the Maine Rainy Day Fund, the Retirement Allowance Fund and the Property Tax Relief Fund.

PART F:

1. Amended the law to specify that the Judicial Department must budget funds in future biennia to pay the Bureau of Revenue Services for services provided;
2. Established the Revenue Services Fund as an Internal Service Fund;
3. Authorized the Bureau of Revenue Services, Internal Services Fund account to retain sufficient funds from Judicial Department collections to pay for services provided during the 1998-1999 biennium;
4. Authorized the Governor to transfer positions from the Bureau of Revenue Services General Fund account to the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund, Internal Services Fund account; and
5. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund to the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund as a working capital advance.

PART G:

1. Amended the law to establish the Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands at pay range 89; and

2. Amended the law to correct the percentage distribution of revenues credited to the ATV Recreational Management Fund.

PART H:

This Part authorized the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to establish positions for the Loring Rebuild Facility.

PART I:

This Part amended the law relating to the funds carried forward by the Office of the Public Advocate.

PART J:

This Part lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98.

Public Law 1997, chapter 24, Part I, section 13 authorized the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to achieve at least \$240,000 in "Personal Services" savings during each fiscal year of the 1998-1999 biennium. This Part would have allowed the department to achieve \$480,000 in "Personal Services" savings over the 1998-1999 biennium.

PART K:

This Part reduced the salary increases for judges and justices from those recommended by the Judicial Compensation Commission. It delayed any cost-of-living adjustment until July 1, 1999. It avoided any unfunded liability for the judicial retirement system by establishing a "blended cap" on retirement benefits, applying the 70% cap to only the service credit earned on or after July 1, 1998.

PART L:

1. Amended the law that specifies the distribution of year end balances in the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services;
2. Amended the law to correct program names;
3. Established a process for the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to change the listing of positions to be eliminated at the Bangor Mental Health Institute; and
4. Authorized the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to include in its base budget costs associated with operating a hospital outpatient dental clinic in Aroostook County.

PART M:

This Part authorized that General Fund appropriations for the Welfare to Work program in the Department of Labor are nonlapsing through June 30, 1999.

PART N:

This Part authorized that funds received by the State from the Maine State Employees Association as reimbursement for the union related activities of the current president of the association may be deposited as revenue to the Probation and Parole, Other Special Revenue account in the Department Corrections and may be used for acting capacity positions for the duration of the term of the current president in the 1998-1999 biennium.

PART O:

This Part increased the salary grade of the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and upgraded the Director of the Military Bureau to a Deputy Commissioner who would serve at the pleasure of the commissioner.

PART P:

This Part reduced the amortization period for the unfunded actuarial liability of the Maine State Retirement System as of July 1, 1998 from the remaining 30 years of a 35-year period to a 25-year period.

PART Q:

This Part transferred, then appropriated, funds from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund for a number of purposes.

PART R:

This Part implemented the following changes to the Maine Revised Statutes, effective June 30, 1999.

1. It repealed the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents.
2. It repealed the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund.
3. It authorized any unencumbered balance in either fund to lapse to the General Fund.

PART S:

This Part allowed state departments and agencies to accept payment for goods and services by major credit cards.

PART T:

Public Law 1991, chapter 121, Part A, section 7 required that all state departments, agencies and offices be closed on May 10, 1991 and May 24, 1991. All state employees, even those "essential employees" who were required to work on those days, were not compensated for those days or, for some employees who worked alternative work schedules, were not compensated for two other days during the affected pay cycles. The law specified that those state employees were to be compensated for the two "closed" days when they left state service.

This Part provided authority for those affected state employees who remain in state service to be paid for those 2 days in fiscal year 1997-98 rather than when they leave state service. It provided a General Fund appropriation for the cost of General Fund employees. It also provided a General Fund appropriation for the cost of Highway Fund employees. Lastly, it authorized the State Budget Officer to adjust allotments in accounts in other funding sources so that state employees in those accounts would be paid as well.

PART U:

This Part added the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs to the list of the recipients of the various reports of the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission.

PART V:

Public Law 1997, chapter 24, Part S, section 1 authorized the use of \$2,100,000 from available balances at the end of fiscal year 1996-97 to be used to meet the actuarial and accumulated interest costs for 8 school administrative units.

Given that additional interest costs continued to accrue beyond the original date of settlement, that is, July 1, 1997, an additional amount of approximately \$50,000 is needed to settle all costs. This Part authorized the Maine State Retirement System to use the first sums transferred or appropriated to the Retirement Allowance Fund established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 to finally settle the cost of these early retirement incentives.

PART W:

This Part eliminated the current prohibition on establishing most positions administratively. Agencies of State Government would be able to create limited period or other temporary positions by financial order if the position established has an end date not to exceed the statutory adjournment date of the next regular session of the Legislature.

This Part also eliminated any 52-week position authorized by the Legislature that has been vacant for 6 months or longer as of the effective date of this Act. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services would be authorized to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over administrative and financial affairs on the number of positions eliminated and also authorized to submit legislation deappropriating or deallocating available savings.

PART X:

This Part provided a supplemental General Fund appropriation of \$15,000 to the St. Croix International Waterway Commission. The current appropriation is \$10,000 in fiscal year 1997-98 and fiscal year 1998-99.

PART Y:

This Part provided clarifying language that specifies that oil pipelines and other oil off-loading facilities are limited to sites in Portland and Searsport harbors.

This Part established a statewide transportation infrastructure strategy for funds repaid to the Maine Port Authority for the redevelopment of Mack Point.

This Part provided nonlapsing language for a General Fund appropriation that provides funds to develop a cargo port at Mack Point.

This Part allocated funds from the sale of steel to be used for the development of a cargo port at Mack Point.

PART Z:

This Part directed the Department of Transportation to study several aspects related to the development of a west-east highway. It also clarified that this project will neither detract from nor diminish the commitment of the Department of Transportation or the State to the maintenance and upkeep of existing roadways.

This Part required the State Planning Office, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Economic and Community Development to study a number of economic issues associated with the development of a west-east highway.

PART AA:

This Part provided for several economic development initiatives.

PART BB:

This Part authorized the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue up to \$5,500,000 in securities.

PART CC:

This Part amended that provision in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4 that allows the General Fund to receive 20% of the nondesignated Alternative Dispute Resolution Services resources. The Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Service Fund would be allowed to retain all of those resources in order to meet the costs of providing ADR services.

PART DD:

This Part directed the Department of Human Services to recommend programmatic and financial divisions within the Medical Care - Payments to Providers program to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs no later than January 8, 1999.

PART EE:

This Part repealed Public Law 1997, chapter 560, Part F. The Part, comprised of 3 sections, established a "Health Care Fund for Maine Citizens," funding for which would come from any award or settlement received by the State from a tobacco company pursuant to an action brought by the State against cigarette manufacturers. Absent this language, any award or settlement received by the State will be deposited in the General Fund.

PART FF:

This Part authorized the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 to the University of Maine System toward the Maine Economic Improvement Strategy at the end of fiscal year 1997-98. It also authorized the University of Maine System to include \$4,000,000 as part of their "current services" request to the Governor and Legislature in the 2000-2001 biennium.

PART GG:

This Part deleted that provision that allowed the Federal-State Inspection Fund to retain all interest earnings in fiscal year 1997-98 only.

PART HH:

This Part repealed those provisions from Public Law 1995, chapter 502, Part C that unclassified certain positions at the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

PART II:

This Part implemented collective bargaining agreements for certain employees within the Judicial Department.

PART JJ:

This Part revised the statutes to provide expenses to members of the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board. It required each island municipality to appoint one alternate member to the board.

This Part also provided the Department of Transportation with an Island Ferry Service Fund allocation of \$5,000 in fiscal year 1997-98 and \$20,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 to cover the expenses of the members of the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board.

PART KK:

This Part articulated the intent of the Legislature to reduce the General Fund subsidy to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in the 2000-2001 biennium and directed the director of the academy to develop a plan to reduce the academy's reliance on the General Fund.

PART LL:

This Part required the Department of Human Services to seek reimbursement under Medicaid for certain targeted case management expenditures.

PART MM:

This Part required a \$125,000 payment from the Risk Management Fund to Dan Corey and Nu Seed Corporation in settlement of losses suffered as a result of the decertification of the 1996 seed potato crop.

PART NN:

This Part established and provided money to the Capital Construction and Improvements Reserve Fund.

PART OO:

This Part repealed the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but left intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax.

This Part also expanded the individual income tax 7% bracket for all categories of filers by raising the Maine taxable income that applied to that bracket and the 8.5% bracket.

This Part also increased the individual income tax personal exemption in a 2-step process in an attempt to conform with the federal individual income tax personal exemption.

This Part also expanded the low-income tax credit originally established in Public Law 1997, chapter 557, Part E, section 1.

PART PP:

This Part provided \$2,000,000 to the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation to assist with the corporation's federally mandated conversion to digital broadcasting.

PART QQ:

This Part appropriated funds for the acquisition of land to be targeted for recreational, scenic, natural or wildlife values in accordance with criteria developed by the Land for Maine's Future Board.

PART RR:

This Part required the closing of all state liquor stores by October 1, 1998.

PART SS:

This Part provided General Fund appropriations to the Department of Environmental Protection to construct water pollution control facilities. These funds would provide the state match for \$10,000,000 in federal funds. It also provided a \$3,000,000 appropriation to the Department of Human Services to address environmental deficiencies in public water supplies, providing the state match for \$15,000,000 in federal funds.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1102) provided funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.

House Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1103) added a new Part that required the closing of all state liquor stores by October 1, 1998.

House Amendment "C" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1104) removed the Part from Committee Amendment "A" that provided a \$100,000 General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 1997-98 to assist the University of Maine at Fort Kent in constructing and relocating a facility for forestry and environmental programs, and clarified the location and lease provisions associated with the facility.

House Amendment "D" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1108) appropriated funds from the Maine Rainy Day Fund for the acquisition of land to be targeted for recreational, scenic, natural or wildlife values in accordance with criteria developed by the Land for Maine's Future Board.

House Amendment "E" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1109) took \$5,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund and provided \$2,000,000 to the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation to assist with the corporation's federally mandated conversion to digital broadcasting and \$3,000,000 for the acquisition of land to be targeted for recreational, scenic, natural or wildlife values in accordance with criteria developed by the Land for Maine's Future Board.

House Amendment "F" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1110) transferred \$1,500,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund for General Purpose Aid to Local Schools for out-of-district placements.

House Amendment "G" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1111) provided that the personal exemption amount for Maine's individual income tax is increased to \$2,400 for tax years beginning in 1998 and \$2,750 for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1999.

The amendment provided an equalized homestead property tax exemption of \$7,000 for Maine residents. The homestead property tax exemption is administered on the local level with the State reimbursing municipalities for 100% of the taxes lost and 90% of the local administrative costs. Municipal property tax bills would have to identify the exemption and the amount of property tax reduction.

The amendment increased benefits for renters under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program by increasing the percentage of rent constituting property taxes accrued for a nonelderly household from 15% to 18% of rent paid.

The amendment provided required appropriations and a fiscal note.

House Amendment "H" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1112) removed the 5% cost-of-living adjustment to certain Temporary Assistance for Needy Family recipients.

House Amendment "I" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1113) struck out that part of Committee Amendment "B" that authorized the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue up to \$5,500,000 in securities.

House Amendment "J" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1114) repealed the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but left intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax.

This amendment also expanded the individual income tax 7% bracket for all categories of filers by raising the Maine taxable income that applied to that bracket and the 8.5% bracket.

This amendment also increased the individual income tax personal exemption in a 2-step process in an attempt to conform with the federal individual income tax personal exemption.

This amendment also expanded the low-income tax credit originally established in Public Law 1997, chapter 557, Part E, section 1.

This amendment funded the repeal of the snack tax, the expansion of the 7% tax bracket and the increase in the personal exemption and low-income tax credit with funding from the Maine Rainy Day Fund.

House Amendment "J" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1115) added a new Part that repeals the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but leaves intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax. This amendment funds the repeal of the snack tax by transferring funds from the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund and the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents.

House Amendment "K" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1116) transfers the funding necessary for this amendment from the Maine Rainy Day Fund.

Under current law, certain state employees, including state police officers, hired after August 31, 1984 are eligible for retirement benefits upon the completion of 25 years of creditable service and attainment of 55 years of age.

Certain state employees hired before September 1, 1984 are eligible for retirement benefits upon the completion of 20 years of creditable service, with no age restrictions.

This amendment changed the cutoff date for eligibility of retirement benefits after 20 years of creditable service for state police officers to September 16, 1984. The purpose of this amendment was to give members of the Maine State Police 38th Training Troop the same benefits that were available when applications were being accepted for that class. Members of the 38th Training Troop were well through the application process but were not officially hired until September 3, 1984, 2 days after the law imposing the new 25 years of service and 55 years of age requirement took effect.

This amendment also provided that the Maine State Retirement System retirement benefit of Maine State Police Sergeant David McPherson must be calculated under the requirements of the so-called "25/50 special retirement plan" that Sergeant McPherson was covered by when he began law enforcement service as a forest ranger.

House Amendment "L" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1117) added a new Part EEE to Committee Amendment "A" to provide funds to assist the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation with the federally mandated conversion to digital broadcasting.

House Amendment "M" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1119) removed authorization for 2 new positions in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, a Management Analyst II position and an Accountant III position.

House Amendment "N" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1120) removed funding to expand the civil rights team project that was included in Part A, section 3 of Committee Amendment "A."

House Amendment "O" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1121) deappropriated \$15,000,000 from General Purpose Aid for Local Schools and provided funds for 3,000 scholarships of \$5,000 each for child-centered education.

House Amendment "P" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1124) removed the authority of the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to undertake renovation of the State Office Building.

House Amendment "Q" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1125) removed the funding to expand the shelter-operating subsidy within the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund and appropriated funds for tax relief.

House Amendment "R" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1126) removed one-time funding for business attraction and expansion marketing efforts and provided additional funds for the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents.

House Amendment "S" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1127) removed authorization for a Real Property Manager position in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-646) required all individual and group contracts of nonprofit hospital and medical services, insurers and health maintenance organizations to provide insurance coverage for prostate cancer screening. Coverage for prostate cancer screening would be provided annually to men 50 years of age or older until a man reaches the age of 72 if the procedures are recommended by a physician.

The amendment added an exception to the requirement that health insurance contracts provide coverage for prostate cancer screening that includes accidental injury, specified disease, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement, long-term care and other limited benefit health insurance policies and contracts.

The amendment applied to all policies and contracts in effect on or after September 1, 1998.

Senate Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-647) transferred \$5,500,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund.

Senate Amendment "C" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-648) added a new Part that requires the closing of all state liquor stores by October 1, 1998.

Senate Amendment "D" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-649) removed the Part from Committee Amendment "A" that provided a \$100,000 General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 1997-98 to assist the University of Maine at Fort Kent in constructing and relocating a facility for forestry and environmental programs, and clarified the location and lease provisions associated with the facility.

Senate Amendment "E" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-650) eliminated any 52-week position authorized by the Legislature that has been vacant for 6 months or longer as of the effective date of this Act. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services would submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over administrative and financial affairs on the number of positions eliminated and would also submit legislation deappropriating or deallocating available savings.

Senate Amendment "F" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-651) reduced the appropriation to the Maine Technical College System for information technology, capital equipment and facility improvement to \$1,600,000.

This amendment removed the provision in Committee Amendment "A" that provided \$100,000 to construct a facility at the University of Maine at Fort Kent for forestry and environmental programs.

This amendment struck the provision in Committee Amendment "A" that increased the maximum grant in the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program from \$500 to \$1,000.

Finally, this amendment provided an appropriation to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund of \$5,500,000 to fund scientific research and related commercial development.

Senate Amendment "G" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-652) transferred \$1,500,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund for General Purpose Aid to Local Schools for out-of-district placements.

Senate Amendment "H" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-654) provided funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.

Senate Amendment "I" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-655) added a new Part EEE to Committee Amendment "A" to provide funds to assist the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation with the federally mandated conversion to digital broadcasting.

Senate Amendment "J" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-656) repealed the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but left intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax.

This amendment also expanded the individual income tax 7% bracket for all categories of filers by raising the Maine taxable income that applies to that bracket and the 8.5% bracket.

This amendment also increased the individual income tax personal exemption in a 2-step process in an attempt to conform with the federal individual income tax personal exemption.

This amendment also expanded the low-income tax credit originally established in Public Law 1997, chapter 557, Part E, section 1.

This amendment funded the repeal of the snack tax, the expansion of the 7% tax bracket and the increase in the personal exemption and low-income tax credit with funding from the Maine Rainy Day Fund.

Senate Amendment "K" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-657) transferred the funding necessary for this amendment from the Maine Rainy Day Fund.

Under current law, certain state employees, including state police officers, hired after August 31, 1984 are eligible for retirement benefits upon the completion of 25 years of creditable service and attainment of 55 years of age. Certain state employees hired before September 1, 1984 are eligible for retirement benefits upon the completion of 20 years of creditable service, with no age restrictions.

This amendment changed the cutoff date for eligibility of retirement benefits after 20 years of creditable service for state police officers to September 16, 1984. The purpose of this amendment was to give members of the Maine State Police 38th Training Troop the same benefits that were available when applications were being accepted for that class. Members of the 38th Training Troop were well through the application process but were not officially hired until September 3, 1984, 2 days after the law imposing the new 25 years of service and 55 years of age requirement took effect.

This amendment also provided that the Maine State Retirement System retirement benefit of Maine State Police Sergeant David McPherson must be calculated under the requirements of the so-called "25/50 special retirement plan" that Sergeant McPherson was covered by when he began law enforcement service as a forest ranger.

Senate Amendment "L" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-659) authorized the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation to issue a certificate of participation to finance its conversion to digital broadcasting, as required by federal mandate.

Senate Amendment "M" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-660) deappropriated \$6,000,000 for capital construction and improvements of juvenile correction facilities and provided \$6,000,000 to the University of Maine System for the Maine Economic Improvement Fund.

Senate Amendment "N" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-664) repealed the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but left intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax.

This amendment also increased the individual income tax personal exemption in a 2-step process in an attempt to conform with the federal individual income tax personal exemption.

This amendment expanded the circuit breaker program in 3 ways. First, the tax to income thresholds would be reduced from 4% and 8% to 2% and 6%, respectively. Second, the income thresholds would be increased in program year 1998 from \$26,400 for singles and \$41,100 for joint filers to \$40,000 and \$60,000, respectively. Third, it increased the maximum benefit from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

This amendment funded the repeal of the snack tax, the expansion of the circuit breaker program and the increase in the personal exemption with funding from the Maine Rainy Day Fund.

Senate Amendment "O" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-665) clarified that the calculation of the rebate and the negotiation of the rebate agreements authorized by this Act are to occur after the approval by the federal Health Care Financing Administration of a waiver to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits to qualified persons 62 years of age or older as provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3174-G, subsection 1-A.

Senate Amendment "P" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-666) provided that the business equipment tax reimbursement, or "BETR," be limited to 90% of taxes paid.

Senate Amendment "Q" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-667) repealed the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but left intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax.

This amendment also increased the individual income tax personal exemption to conform with the federal individual income tax personal exemption in tax years 1998 and 1999.

This amendment expanded the circuit breaker program in 2 ways. First, the tax to income thresholds would be reduced from 4% and 8% to 3% and 6%, respectively. Second, the income thresholds would be increased in program year 1998 from \$26,400 for singles and \$41,100 for joint filers to \$40,000 and \$60,000, respectively. Third, it increased the maximum benefit payment from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

This amendment funded the repeal of the snack tax, the expansion of the circuit breaker program and the increase in the personal exemption with funding from the 2 tax relief funds.

Senate Amendment "R" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-668) provided funds to increase funding available for out-of-district placements.

Senate Amendment "S" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-669) transferred \$6,000,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund with the University of Maine System for research and development.

Senate Amendment "T" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-670) provided that reimbursement may not be made under the business equipment tax reimbursement laws, or "BETR," for property for which the municipality has refunded property taxes under a tax increment financing agreement.

Senate Amendment "U" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-671) provided that natural gas pipelines and certain property used in the production or generation of electricity is not eligible for reimbursement for taxes paid on certain business property.

Senate Amendment "V" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-672) provided funds for the Maine Economic Improvement Fund to be used to fund applied scientific research and related commercial development conducted by the University of Maine System.

Senate Amendment "W" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-673) appropriated \$1,600,000 for out-of-district placements and deappropriated the same amount from the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program.

Senate Amendment "X" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-675) reduced the sales tax from 6% to 5% effective January 1, 1999 and established the Tax Relief Guarantee Fund for the purposes of ensuring the continuation of tax

relief in the next biennium. The amendment repealed the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund and required the State Controller to transfer any unexpended or unobligated balances to the Tax Relief Guarantee Fund.

This amendment also removed those provisions of Committee Amendment "A" that repealed the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund and that authorized the balance of either fund to lapse to the General Fund.

Senate Amendment "Y" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-680) repealed the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but left intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax.

This amendment also increased the individual income tax personal exemption in a 2-step process in an attempt to conform with the federal individual income tax personal exemption.

This amendment expanded the circuit breaker program in 2 ways. First, the tax to income thresholds would be reduced from 4% and 8% to 2% and 6%, respectively. Second, the income thresholds would be increased in program year 1998 from \$26,400 for singles and \$41,100 for joint filers to \$40,000 and \$60,000, respectively.

This amendment funded the repeal of the snack tax, the expansion of the circuit breaker program and the increase in the personal exemption with funding from 2 tax relief funds established by the 118th Legislature.

This amendment also contained the legislative recommendations of the Working Group on Motor Vehicle Fines, Enforcement and Reimbursement. The Part addressed reimbursement for municipal and county law enforcement agencies whose officers are required to be present in District Court as well as the moratorium on local traffic ordinances enacted in Public Law 1997, chapter 392.

The law authorizing municipalities to designate a law enforcement officer as the court officer to handle arraignments was reworded but retained. The reimbursement to the municipality or county supplying the court officer would be increased from \$10 a day to \$40 a day.

The court reimbursement rate for municipal law enforcement officers who are required to appear in court is \$10 a day. This bill increased the reimbursement to \$40 a day, added county law enforcement officers, clarified that the reimbursement is paid to the municipality or county and clarified that the reimbursement is \$40 regardless of whether the officer is appearing during regular working hours, while off duty or while working overtime. The working group arrived at the figure of \$40 a day after reviewing current municipal costs for officers appearing in court.

This amendment created a separate fund out of which the Administrative Office of the Courts shall pay the reimbursements to the municipalities and counties. Nine and one half percent of all traffic infraction revenue would be deposited in the fund. At the end of each fiscal year, 5% of the amount of revenue from traffic infraction fines would accrue to the General Fund and the balance would accrue to the Highway Fund. If there is a deficit in the fund, a transfer would be made from the General Fund.

This amendment repealed the sunset on the new law prohibiting municipalities from adopting ordinances that are the same as or conflict with the state laws governing speed and other traffic control limits. It also made the explicit prohibition permanent.

This amendment also eliminated certain positions in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Public Safety.

This amendment also eliminated the \$100,000 appropriation to the University of Maine at Fort Kent for the construction and relocation of a facility for forestry and environmental programs.

The amendment also eliminated supplemental funding of the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program and the Maine Technical College System's capital request.

It provided supplemental funding for the Magnet School, the State's libraries, water pollution control facilities, drinking water system improvements, Land for Maine's Future Board and Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation's federally mandated conversion to digital broadcasting.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 643 does the following:

Part	Section	
A	A-1	Supplemental General Fund Appropriations/Deappropriations
	A-2	Supplemental Highway Fund Allocations/Deallocations
	A-3	Supplemental Federal Expenditures Fund Allocations/Deallocations
	A-4	Supplemental Other Special Revenue Allocations/Deallocations
	A-5	Supplemental Federal Block Grant Allocations/Deallocations
	A-6	Supplemental Office of Information Services Fund Deallocations
	A-7	Supplemental Workers' Compensation Management Fund Allocations
	A-8	Supplemental Real Property Lease Internal Service Fund Allocations/Deallocations
	A-9	Supplemental Island Ferry Services Fund Allocations
	A-10	Supplemental Alcoholic Beverage Fund Allocations/Deallocations
	A-11	Supplemental State Lottery Fund Allocations
B	B-1	General Fund Appropriations for Reclassifications
	B-2	Federal Expenditures Fund Allocations for Reclassifications
	B-3	Other Special Revenue Allocations for Reclassifications
	B-4	Federal Block Grant Fund Allocations for Reclassifications
	B-5	Office of Information Services Fund Allocations for Reclassifications
C	C-1	General Fund Deappropriations to Fund Reclassifications
D	D-1	Establishes the fiscal year 1998-99 school subsidy hardship cushion distribution method
	D-2	Eliminates the 5% cap on the Commissioner of Education's recommended funding level,

		instead requiring that the level not exceed the funding level for the current year (amended by LD 2048, PL 1997, c. 724)
D-3; D-5		Changes the calculation to establish a school administrative unit's weighted relative fiscal capacity
D-4		Limits the Legislature's appropriation for school subsidy in a current services budget at the funding level for the year then in progress. School subsidy increases would be requested in a supplemental appropriations budget bill
D-6		Increases the amount of appropriation balances in the Education in the Unorganized Territory Account that will lapse to General Fund revenue in fiscal year 1997-98 by \$1,076,649
D-7		Establishes the basic elementary and secondary per pupil operating rates, per pupil operating rates, per pupil guarantee and statewide factor for General Purpose Aid
D-8;D-12		Establishes basic education allocation and appropriation level for fiscal year 1998-99
D-13		Authorizes \$1,000,000 of available appropriation balances from fiscal year 1997-98 in the Education in the Unorganized Territory account to lapse to General Fund revenue in fiscal year 1998-99
D-14		Requires that the fiscal year 1998-99 funding level for General Purpose Aid for Local Schools be reduced by \$16,660,478 for the purpose of calculating school subsidy for the 2000-2001 biennium
D-15		Authorizes \$1,978,864 of available construction aid recoveries in the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools account to lapse to General Fund revenue in fiscal year 1997-98
D-16		Deappropriates funds from the General Purpose Aid account to offset appropriations for services for preschool handicapped children and appropriates funds to increase the state subsidy for adult education by an additional 2%
D-17		Appropriates funds for the State Board of Education and the Education Research Institute with an offsetting deappropriation to the General Purpose Aid account
Part	Section	
E	E-1	Increases the "cap" of the Maine Rainy Day Fund to 5% and allows the State Controller to transfer from the unappropriated surplus to the MRDF without an appropriation
	E-2	Authorizes a transfer of \$3,200,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Retirement - Federal Recovery Program in fiscal year 1998-99
	E-3	Changes the due date for the 4-year forecast of revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and Highway Fund
	E-4	Increases the per diem for members of the State Board of Property Tax Review from \$50 to \$75
	E-5	Repeals the laws that authorized the issuance of the fiscal year 1997-98 tax anticipation note
	E-6	Allows the Bureau of Information Services to apply its restructured rates to all affected funds
	E-7	Authorizes \$616,462 of unencumbered balance forward from fiscal year 1996-97 in the Statewide-Retiree Health account to lapse to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98
	E-8	Authorizes \$1,697,566 of unencumbered balance forward from fiscal year 1996-97 in the salary plan account to lapse to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98
	E-9	Authorizes the transfer of funds from the salary plan accounts to meet the cost of certain stipend payments
	E-10	Authorizes the Bureau of Information Services to implement a career-banding pilot project in fiscal year 1998-99 to be developed jointly by the department and the

		employees' collective bargaining agent. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services is required to report to the Appropriations Committee on the effectiveness of the project by January 31, 1999
E-11		Authorizes \$700,000 in lease-purchase financing arrangements for the Central Motor Pool
E-12		Clarifies that the December 1997 and March 1998 General Fund revised revenue projections will not result in transfers to the Maine Rainy Day Fund, the Retirement Allowance Fund or an appropriation to the Property Tax Relief Fund
Part	Section	
F	F-1	Clarifies that the State Tax Assessor may retain funds to cover the administrative
		expenses of collecting fines on behalf of the Judicial Department for the 1998-1999 biennium only. Requires the Judicial Department to budget sufficient funds to pay the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund, Internal Services Fund for services provided in future biennia
F-2		Establishes the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund, Internal Services Fund
F-3		Authorizes the transfer of positions from the Bureau of Revenue Services General Fund account to its Internal Services Fund account
F-4		Appropriates \$175,000 to the Bureau of Revenue Services in fiscal year 1997-98 as a working capital advance. The amount must be repaid to the General Fund on or before June 30, 1999
Part	Section	
G	G-1	Establishes the salary of the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner at salary range 56 of the Standard Salary Schedule for Medical Personnel published by the Bureau of Human Resources
Part	Section	
H	H-1:H-2	Changes the salary pay range of the Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands from Range 88 to Range 89
	H-3	Changes the percentage distribution of revenue credited to the ATV Recreational Management Fund of the Department of Conservation
Part	Section	
I	I-1	Authorizes the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to temporarily establish 100% federally reimbursed positions that support the Loring Rebuild Center by financial order for fiscal year 1998-99
Part	Section	
J	J-1	Changes provision related to funds being carried forward from fiscal year 1996-97 to fiscal year 1997-98 by the Office of the Public Advocate (See also LD 2277)
Part	Section	

K	K-1	Allows the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to achieve \$480,000 in "Personal Services" salary savings over the 1998-1999 biennium rather than achieving \$240,000 in savings in each year of the biennium (See also LD 2293)
	K-2	Authorizes \$655,664 in fiscal year 1997-98 in the Carrying Balances - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Program to lapse to the General Fund as the result of a revenue shortfall in fiscal year 1996-97
Part	Section	
L	L-1	Authorizes certain hazardous waste fees to continue until superseded

Part	Section	
M	M-1:M-11	Increases the salary and compensation for judges and active retired judges effective in fiscal year 1998-99
	M-12	Provides increased retirement benefits for judges, effective for service beyond FY 98
	M-13	Repeals the provision that would have repealed the authorization for the Judicial Compensation Commission effective December 31, 1999
	M-14	Appropriates funds to the Judicial Department for the salary increases and retirement provisions (See also LD 1062)
Part	Section	
N	N-1	Amends the process of transferring appropriation balances to DMHMRSAS community development accounts by adding AMHI and BMHI balances and eliminating the Bath Children's Home and the Pineland Center; also corrects certain program names
	N-2	Establishes a process for the DMHMRSAS to change the listing of positions to be eliminated at the Bangor Mental Health Institute
	N-3	Authorizes the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to include funding in its biennial base budget for the Bangor Mental Health Institute and Bangor Mental Health Institute - Disproportionate Share programs for the costs to operate a hospital outpatient dental clinic in Aroostook County
	N-4	Requires the consolidation of the Program on Aging at BMHI into units K-1 and K-2; that 7 units be maintained, one of which must be an acute admissions unit; allows units unused for 30 days to be closed; requires that BMHI maintain at least 120 licensed beds. Repeals these provisions June 1, 1999
	N-5	Requires DMHMRSAS to submit a strategic plan to the Legislature that analyzes adult mental health needs in the Bangor area and provides a comprehensive plan covering capacity, levels of care, staffing and services provided
Part	Section	
O	O-1	Authorizes the Department of Labor to carry forward unencumbered General Fund appropriation balances in the Welfare to Work program to June 30, 1999
Part	Section	

P	P-1	Allows the Department of Corrections to deposit funds received from the MSEA as reimbursement for union related activity of the president of the association in the Probation and Parole Other Special Revenue account
Part	Section	
Q	Q-1:Q-2	Changes the salary pay range of the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management from Range 89 to Range 91
	Q-3:Q-6	Upgrades the Director of the Military Bureau to a Deputy Commissioner who serves at the pleasure of the commissioner
	Q-7	Adds the classification of laborer to the list of employees of the DDVEM who are not required to be veterans as a condition of employment

Part	Section	
R	R-1	Reduces the amortization period for the unfunded actuarial liability of the Maine State Retirement System as of July 1, 1998 from the remaining 30 years of a 35-year period to a 25-year period
Part	Section	
S	S-1	Transfers \$5,200,000 from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents, \$20,000,000 from the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund and \$3,005,840 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Rainy Day Fund in fiscal year 1997-98
	S-2	Transfers \$36,000,000 from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents to the General Fund unappropriated surplus in fiscal year 1998-99
	S-3	Transfers \$6,347,667 from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents to the General Fund unappropriated surplus in fiscal year 1998-99
	S-4	Transfers \$15,521,131 in fiscal year 1997-98 and \$37,694,872 in fiscal year 1998-99 from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents to General Fund unappropriated surplus
	S-5:S-6	Makes General Fund appropriations, after making several transfers to the unappropriated surplus from the tax relief funds, for a number of purposes
Part	Section	
T	T-1:T-7	Repeals the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund effective June 30, 1999 and authorizes any unencumbered balances in those funds to lapse to the General Fund at the end of fiscal year 1998-99
Part	Section	
U	U-1	Allows state departments and agencies to accept payment for goods and services by major credit cards
Part	Section	
V	V-1	Repeals the law that required all state departments, agencies and offices be closed on

		May 10, 1991 and May 24, 1991. All state employees, even "essential" employees who were required to work on those days, were not compensated and instead were to be paid for the two days when they left state service
V-2		Authorizes those affected state employees who remain in state service to be paid for the 2 "closed" days in fiscal year 1997-98 rather than when they leave state service
V-3		Provides General Fund appropriations for both employees in the General Fund and employees in the Highway Fund
V-4		Provides that section 1 applies to all programs in State Government no later than June 30, 1999
Part	Section	
W	W-1	Adds the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs to the list of recipients of the various reports of the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission

Part	Section	
X	X-1	Provides that the first transfer of funds to the Retirement Allowance Fund in compliance with 5 MRSA §1517 must be used to finally settle the actuarial and accumulated interest costs of the early retirement incentives provided by 8 school administrative units
Part	Section	
Y	Y-1	Eliminates the current prohibition on establishing most positions administratively. State agencies will be able to create temporary positions by financial order if the positions established have an end date not exceeding the statutory adjournment date of the next regular session of the Legislature
Part	Section	
Z	Z-1	Appropriates one-time supplemental funds to the St. Croix International Waterway
Part	Section	
AA	AA-1	Specifies that oil pipelines and other oil off-loading facilities are limited to sites in Portland and Searsport harbors
	AA-2	Establishes a statewide transportation infrastructure strategy for funds repaid to the Marine Port Authority for the redevelopment of Mack Point
	AA-3	Provides nonlapsing language for a General Fund appropriation that provides funds to develop a cargo port at Mack Point
	AA-4	Allocates funds from the sale of steel to be used for the development of a cargo port at Mack Point
Part	Section	
BB	BB-1	Directs the Department of Transportation to study several aspects related to the development of a west-east highway

	BB-2	Establishes legislative intent that a west-east highway project will neither detract from nor diminish the commitment of the DOT to the maintenance and upkeep of existing roadways
	BB-3	Requires the State Planning Office, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Economic and Community Development to study a number of economic issues associated with the development of a west-east highway
Part	Section	
CC	CC-1	Provides General Fund appropriations for several economic development initiatives (See also LD 2249)
Part	Section	
DD	DD-1	Authorizes the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue up to \$5,500,000 in securities for courthouse projects in Lewiston, Springvale and other designated locations
Part	Section	
EE	EE-1	Allows the Administrative Office of the Courts to use 100%, rather than 80%, of the nondesignated Alternative Dispute Resolution Services resources to meet the costs of providing ADR services
Part	Section	
FF	FF-1	Appropriates \$3,000,000 to the Maine Technical College System for information technology, capital equipment and facility improvements
Part	Section	
GG	GG-1	Authorizes the University of Maine at Fort Kent to lease land from the Bureau of Parks and Lands and clarifies certain location provisions
	GG-2	Provides a General Fund appropriation to UMFK to assist with the construction and relocation of a facility for forestry and environmental programs
Part	Section	
HH	HH-1	Increases the maximum grant size in the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program from \$500 to \$1,000 for students attending public institutions of higher education and prohibits the institutions from reducing grant aid as a result of the receipt of the MSISP grant
	HH-2	Repeals the requirement that grants to private institutions be 2 times the amount of grants to public institutions of higher education
	HH-3	Provides an additional General Fund appropriation of \$4,000,000 for the MSISP program (Related to LD 2213)
Part	Section	
II	II-1	Directs the Department of Human Services to recommend programmatic and financial

divisions within the Medical Care - Payments to Providers program to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs by January 8, 1999

Part	Section	
JJ	JJ-1	Provides supplemental appropriations for adult day care, Alzheimer's respite care and for the consumer-directed home based care program within the Department of Labor
Part	Section	
KK	KK-1	Repeals the law that established the Health Care Fund for Maine Citizens that would receive any funds paid as awards or settlements from tobacco companies pursuant to an action brought by the State against cigarette manufacturers
Part	Section	
LL	LL-1	Increases to \$4,000,000 the amount to be transferred from available General Fund balances at 6/30/98 to the University of Maine System for the Maine Economic Improvement Strategy
	LL-2	Authorizes the University of Maine System to include the \$4,000,000 anticipated transfer as part of their "current services" budget request in the 2000-2001 biennium (See also LD 1658 and LD 2200)
Part	Section	
MM	MM-1	Allows the Federal-State Inspection Fund to permanently retain all fund interest earnings
Part	Section	
NN	NN-1;NN-3	Classifies certain office and division director positions within the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources
	NN-2	Provides authorization to the Department of Marine Resources for additional Deputy Commissioner positions
Part	Section	
OO	OO-1;OO-3	Increases the state's share of retired educators' health insurance to 30% on 1/1/99
	OO-2	Provides a General Fund appropriation for the additional retired educator health insurance costs (See also LD 174)
Part	Section	
PP	PP-1:PP-2	Implements collective bargaining agreements for certain Judicial Department employees
	PP-3	Allows the Judicial Department to access funds in the Salary Plan program for its collective bargaining costs
	PP-4	Authorizes the transfer of funds from the salary plan accounts to the Judicial Department to meet the cost of certain stipend payments
	PP-5:PP-6	Authorizes the Judicial Department of reclassify two positions

Part	Section	
QQ	QQ-1	Provides authorization for members of the Maine Ferry Advisory Board to be reimbursed for expenses
	QQ-2	Requires each island municipality to appoint an alternate member to the board
	QQ-3	Allocates funds for the meeting expenses of the board
Part	Section	
RR	RR-1:RR-2	Requires the Department of Human Services to seek to increase rebates in aggregate by an additional 6 percentage points for the elderly low-cost drug program by 10/1/98 and report to the Legislature's Health and Human Services and Appropriations Committees
	RR-3	Requires DHS to produce and provide education materials about the elderly low-cost drug program
	RR-4	Directs DHS to apply for a HCFA waiver to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits to qualified persons age 62 or older. DHS must report to the HHS and AFA committees by 10/1/98
	RR-5	Requires DHS to enter into a drug rebate agreement under the Medicaid program with an aggregate rebate amount that is at least 6 percentage points higher. A progress report must be submitted by DHS to the 119th Legislature
	RR-6	Clarifies the cost of drugs provided under the elderly low cost drug program vis-a-vis household eligibility
	RR-7	Calls on DHS to adopt rules for the elderly low-cost drug program expansion pursuant to 22 MRSA § 254
	RR-8	Appropriates \$2,000,000 to expand the number of drugs covered by the program (See also LD 2218)
Part	Section	
SS	SS-1	Requires the Department of Education and the Department of Corrections to review all educational programs at the Maine Youth Center and report their findings and prepare a plan for the Legislature
	SS-2	Establishes departmental responsibility for plan implementation and monitoring
	SS-3	Requires an annual review by the Legislature of the Department of Corrections' progress in implementing the school improvement plan
Part	Section	
TT	TT-1	Requires the DMHMRSAS and the Department of Corrections to jointly review mental health programs at the Maine Youth Center and report their findings and prepare a plan for the Legislature
	TT-2	Establishes departmental responsibility for plan implementation and monitoring
	TT-3	Requires an annual review by the Legislature of the Department of Corrections' progress in implementing the plan
Part	Section	
UU	UU-1	Articulates the Legislature's intent to reduce the General Fund subsidy to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in the 2000-2001 biennium

	UU-2	Directs the Director of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to develop a plan for reduced reliance on the General Fund
Part	Section	
VV	VV-1	Authorizes a 5% increase in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits for certain recipients (See also LD 2118)
	VV-2	Directs the Department of Human Services to seek reimbursement under Medicaid for certain targeted case management expenditures
Part	Section	
WW	WW-1	Provides state assistance for certain legal immigrants who will no longer be eligible for assistance from the federal supplemental security income program
	WW-2	Provides a General Fund appropriation for certain benefits for legal immigrants (See also LD 1199)

Part	Section	
XX	XX-1:XX-6	Implements the recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities
	XX-7	Provides a General Fund appropriation to expand the shelter operating subsidy program (See also LD 2283)
Part	Section	
YY	YY-1:YY-2	Establishes the Lakes Assessment and Protection Program within the Department of Environmental protection
	YY-3	Provides appropriations to carry out lake assessment and protection projects (See also LD 80)
Part	Section	
ZZ	ZZ-1	Requires the Risk Management Fund to pay \$125,000 to Dan Corey and the Nu Seed Corporation to settle certain claims (See also LD 2052)
Part	Section	
AAA	AAA-1	Establishes the Capital Construction and Improvements Reserve Fund as a non-lapsing fund for capital projects that construct, renovate or improve state facilities
	AAA-2	Appropriates funds to the reserve fund including \$10,000,000 for the Maine Criminal Justice Academy at the Oak Grove campus, \$18,000,000 for construction at the Maine Youth Center and \$18,000,000 to convert the Charleston Correctional Facility to a juvenile center
Part	Section	

BBB	BBB-1	Provides additional appropriations to the Jobs for Maine's Graduates program (See also LD 1970)
Part	Section	
CCC	CCC-1	Provides additional appropriations to the Maine Technical College System for the Maine Career Advantage Program (See also LD 2101)
Part	Section	
DDD	DDD-1 DDD-2	Provides additional appropriations to expand the Maine apprenticeship program Deallocates federal funds associated with the increased General Fund commitment to the apprenticeship program (See also LD 2126)
Part	Section	
EEE	EEE-1	Provides General Fund appropriations of \$2,000,000 to Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation to assist with its conversion to digital broadcasting (See also LD 2107)

Part	Section	
FFF	FFF-1	Provides additional appropriations for the Land for Maine's Future Fund of which up to 20% must be expended for farmland preservation (See also LD 2253)
Part	Section	
GGG	GGG-1	Requires the State Controller to transfer \$5,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund by June 30, 1999
Part	Section	
HHH	HHH-1	Repeals a provision requiring that all resources appropriated to the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents be used to increase the personal exemption
	HHH-2	Requires municipalities to include information related to the homestead property tax exemption on property tax bills issued to taxpayers
	HHH-3	Provides an equalized homestead property tax exemption of \$7,000 to be administered at the local level and reimbursed by the State
	HHH-4	Increases the personal exemption for Maine's individual income tax to \$2,400 for income tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1998 and to \$2,750 for income tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1999
	HHH-5	Changes the date for the next annual adjustment of the personal exemption to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2000
	HHH-6	Increases benefits for renters under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program by increasing the percentage of rent constituting property taxes accrued for a nonelderly household from 15% to 18% of rent paid
	HHH-7	Provides General Fund appropriations for additional administrative costs of the Bureau of Revenue Services, for 100% of the estimated amount of the property tax exemption under the homestead exemption program and for 90% of the estimated local costs

HHH-8	required to implement the homestead exemption program Requires the transfer of \$47,051,828 from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents to the General Fund in fiscal year 1998-99
HHH-9	Requires the transfer of \$29,080,192 from the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in fiscal year 1998-99
HHH-10	Retroactivity provision making the Act retroactive to April 1, 1998 (amended by LD 2297, PL 1997, c. 729, Part D to make only Part HHH retroactive) (See also LD 2219)

This bill takes effect June 30, 1998.

LD 1958 An Act to Reimburse Kennebec County for the Costs of County Jail Construction ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TREAT	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1958 proposed to provide a General Fund appropriation of \$300,000 to the Department of Corrections to reimburse Kennebec County for certain county jail construction costs.

LD 1965 An Act to Appropriate Funds for the Interpreter Service for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing P & S 89 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TREAT	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-490
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LD 1965 proposed to appropriate funds for hourly interpreting services, in-service training for certain state agencies, establishment of an emergency response system to access on-call legal interpreters and for administrative purposes.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-490) proposed to eliminate the General Fund appropriation for fiscal year 1997-98 and reduce the General Fund appropriation for fiscal year 1998-99 to \$36,400. The amendment also authorized the Department of Labor to utilize other available resources to achieve an expansion of services for the deaf and hard of hearing. The amendment also added a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 89 appropriates \$36,400 from the General Fund in fiscal year 1998-99 to the Department of Labor for hourly interpreting services, in-service training for certain state agencies, establishment of an emergency response system to access on-call legal interpreters and for administrative purposes. The Department of Labor is authorized to utilize other available resources to achieve an expansion of services for the deaf and hard of hearing. This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on April 15, 1998.

LD 1970 An Act to Protect and Maintain Opportunities for Students by Funding Jobs for Maine Graduates INDEF PP