

# 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  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MAY 1998

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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](http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla)).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

*CON RES XXX*..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses  
*CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died  
*DIED BETWEEN BODIES*.....House & Senate disagree; bill died  
*DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill  
*DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died  
*EMERGENCY*.....Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days  
*FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote  
*FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Bill failed to get majority vote  
*FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*.....Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote  
*INDEF PP*.....Bill Indefinitely Postponed  
*ONTP*..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted  
*OTP ND*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft  
*OTP ND/NT*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title  
*P&S XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law  
*PUBLIC XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law  
*RESOLVE XXX*..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve  
*UNSIGNED*.....Bill held by Governor  
*VETO SUSTAINED*.....Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

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

**LD 1934**                      **Resolve, to Transfer Spectacle Pond from the State of Maine to the Town of Vassalboro**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 1934 proposed to transfer ownership of Spectacle Pond and the land surrounding it from the State to the Town of Vassalboro.

**LD 1941**                      **An Act to Amend the Membership Requirement for the Cumberland County Budget Advisory Committee**                      **PUBLIC 584**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LABRECQUE	OTP-AM    MAJ OTP        MIN	H-811

LD 1941 proposed to amend the membership requirement of the Cumberland County Budget Advisory Committee to provide that members may not reside in the same municipality.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-811)** proposed to amend the membership requirementS of the Cumberland County Budget Advisory Committee to provide that no more than two members may reside in the same municipality.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 584 amends the membership requirements of the Cumberland County Budget Advisory Committee. Under the current law, the committee consists of nine municipal officers from within the county with three officers from each county commissioner district. This law provides that no more than two members may reside in the same municipality.

**LD 1951**                      **An Act to Require Audits of Municipal Tax Assessment and Collection**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
AHEARNE	ONTP	

LD 1951 proposed to require the Department of Audit to audit municipal tax assessment and collections on a revolving schedule so that each municipality is audited once every four years. At the public hearing on the bill, it became clear that the issue behind the bill was the possible fraud or misuse of motor vehicle excise taxes collected by municipal officials. At the request of the committee, the State Auditor agreed to put together materials and offer training in conjunction with the Maine Municipal Association on the potential for abuse in that area and the need for internal controls by the towns. The auditor will report to the committee on these efforts next year.