

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

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Sen. Richard A. Bennett

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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.

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**