

# 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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*Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait*

*Sen. James D. Libby*

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**Staff:**

*Deborah C. Friedman, Legislative Analyst*

*Danielle D. Tetreau, Legislative Analyst*

*David C. Elliott, Principal Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis*

*Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station*

*Augusta, ME 04333*

*(207)287-1670*



**Maine State Legislature**  
**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

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

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees**  
**May 1998**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet ([www.state.me.us/legis/opla](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.

law applies when four or more parcels of land are benefited by the private way, rather than referring to four or more people being benefited. It also provides that the process may be initiated only by persons who own parcels of land that are benefited by the private way or bridge as an appurtenant easement or by fee ownership of the private way or bridge. The law does not apply to ways constructed or primarily used for commercial purposes or forest management activities. Notice of a meeting must be sent to all affected property owners 30 days before the meeting and must be posted in a public place. Until July 1, 1999 only property owners who are members of road associations incorporated as of March 1, 1998 may make use of the amended process.

**LD 1976**

**An Act to Allow the York County Commissioners to Send Out Tax Bills to Towns Twice a Year**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1976 proposed to allow the York County Commissioners to fix the date for payment of the county tax prior to September 1st, and to authorize two dates for the payment of the tax.

**LD 1984**

**An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Secession**

**PUBLIC 699**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUTREMBLE	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-1024

LD 1984 proposed to require that the entire municipality be allowed to vote on a proposed secession of any portion of that municipality and that the secession is effective only if approved by a majority of the votes cast.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-1024)** proposed to require that proponents of secession seek a meeting with the municipal officers of the municipality from which they wish to secede, for the purpose of attempting to resolve the concerns that have caused them to consider secession. The proponents are required, prior to seeking legislation, to make a written request to the officers to add the issue to the agenda for a regular meeting of the officers. The officers are not required to place the item on the agenda, but the results of the request and of any meetings that take place must be reported to the committee of the Legislature considering the secession request by the secession proponents. The municipal officers are the selectmen or councilors of a town or the mayor and aldermen or councilors of a city. The amendment also changes the provision relating to information submitted to the Legislature to require that the listed information be provided, rather than requiring it to be provided if available.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 699 requires proponents of secession to request a meeting with the municipal officers of the municipality from which they wish to secede, for the purpose of attempting to resolve the concerns that have caused them to consider secession. The proponents are required prior to seeking legislation, to make a written request to the officers to add the issue to the agenda for a regular meeting of the officers. The officers are not required to place the item on the agenda, but the results of the request and of any meetings that take place must be reported to the committee of the Legislature considering the secession request by the secession proponents. Chapter