

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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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).

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 2085**An Act to Provide for the Continuation of Town Government Despite a Failed Budget Referendum****ONTP**

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

LD 2085 proposed to provide that if a municipal budget is not approved in three consecutive referenda, a municipality may continue to operate on 1/12 of the previous year's budget until a budget is approved.

LD 2098**An Act to Improve the Integrity of Notaries Public****PUBLIC 712**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NUTTING	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-590

LD 2098 proposed to amend the notary public laws by establishing guidelines for the Secretary of State to use when a complaint is brought against a notary public.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-590) proposed to provide that the Secretary of State may adopt rules regarding the commission of a notary public after that notary public has been convicted of a crime. These rules must provide that a conviction for perjury, false swearing, bribery, corrupt practices or forgery or related offenses may be a basis for the Secretary of State to suspend, revoke or refuse to renew the commission of a notary public.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 712 establishes guidelines for the Secretary of State to use when addressing a complaint brought against a notary public and defines the grounds under which the Secretary of State may revoke or refuse to renew the commission of a notary public.

LD 2108**An Act to Have a Referendum on Whether or Not an Independent Public Commission Should be Established to Set Legislative Pay****DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE	OTP-AM A ONTP B OTP-AM C	

LD 2108 proposed to establish a Legislative Compensation Commission to review the current levels of compensation provided to Maine Legislators. The bill provides that the five members of the commission be appointed by the Governor, with at least one from each of the two major political parties. The bill specifies that no member of the commission may be a former Legislator or a Legislator, lobbyist or lobbyist employer at the time of the appointment. Under the bill, the commission's recommendations would be binding and automatically take effect.