

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
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MAY 1998

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon

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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.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 65 allocates the state ceiling among the state-level issuers of tax-exempt bonds for calendar years 1998 and 1999. Chapter 65 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 7, 1998.

LD 2088 An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Access to Capital for Maine Businesses PUBLIC 774

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KONTOS	OTP-AM	H-880 H-931 VIGUE

LD 2088 proposed to amend the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program by allowing the investment of private venture capital funds in businesses that would not qualify for a credit, so long as credits are not issued for more than 30 percent of the amount of investments made by the fund in businesses that would qualify for the credit. In addition, the limits on qualifying investments in private venture capital funds were proposed to be increased to \$200,000 per investor per three-year period and to \$1,000,000 per fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-880) proposed to expand businesses that are eligible to participate in the private venture capital fund by including advanced technology businesses.

Committee Amendment "A" to House Amendment "A" (H-931) proposed to expand the definition of "eligible business" for purposes of determining businesses that are eligible to participate in the private venture capital fund by making a business eligible if it meets at least one of four enumerated criteria.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 774 amends the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program by allowing the investment of private venture capital funds in businesses that would not qualify for a credit, so long as credits are not issued for more than 30 percent of the amount of investments made by the fund in businesses that would qualify for the credit. In addition, the limit on qualifying investments in private venture capital funds is increased to \$200,000 per investor per three-year period and to \$1,000,000 per fund. The law also expands businesses that are eligible to participate in the private venture capital fund by expanding the definition of "eligible business" to include "advanced technology businesses".

LD 2099 An Act to Prohibit Discrimination against Osteopathic Physicians and Provide Patient Choice ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE DONNELLY	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 2099 proposed to require hospitals, health maintenance organizations, insurance companies and all health care entities that require a physician to be residency trained, board certified or eligible for certification in a medical specialty to accept residency training or certification approved by the American Osteopathic Association, the

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Specialties or the American Board of Medical Specialties as satisfaction of the requirement.

LD 2128 **An Act Regulating the Practices of Feature Motion Picture Exhibitors and Distributors or Licensors and Providing Remedies for Violations** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SAXL M		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2128 proposed to regulate the practices of feature motion picture exhibitors and distributors in order to allow independently owned movie theaters to compete with larger theaters in the State.

LD 2167 **Resolve, to Encourage High-performance Work Organizations and Quality Jobs in Rural Maine** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ROWE NUTTING		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2167, which was referred to the Appropriations Committee, proposed to require state agencies providing business assistance to inform and encourage applicants for assistance to participate in voluntary workplace evaluation programs conducted by nonprofit organizations such as the Maine Quality Center. It also proposed funds for the expansion in rural areas with high unemployment and underemployment of workplace evaluation programs and for assistance in implementing high-performance workplace organizational practices.

At the invitation of the AFA, the Business & Economic Development Committee held a work session on this bill on Tuesday, February 24, 1998. The committee recommended that LD 2167 be amended to incorporate the following:

- Funding appropriated through DECD rather than the Department of Labor.
- Establish a revolving fund with respect to the business assistance allocation
- Transfer the rural workplace conversion assistance funding to LD 2249 "An Act to Promote Sustained Economic Growth and to Implement Recommendations Regarding the Department of Economic And Community Development".