

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
NATURAL RESOURCES

MAY 1998

MEMBERS:

Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat, Chair

Sen. John M. Nutting

Sen. Jeffrey H. Butland

Rep. G. Steven Rowe, Chair

Rep. David C. Shiah

Rep. Thomas Bull

Rep. Scott W. Cowger

Rep. Linda Rogers McKee

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Rep. June C. Meres

Rep. Clifton Foster

Staff:

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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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> NUTTING	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-488
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LD 2105 proposed to clarify the authority of the Finance Authority of Maine to make loans and grants to upgrade the condition of aboveground oil storage tanks and it proposed to authorize expenditures from the Ground Water Oil Clean-up Fund to prevent accidental discharges from aboveground oil storage tanks and to require the Commissioner of Environmental Protection to seek reimbursement of such expenditures.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-488) proposed to authorize the disbursement of \$250,000 from the Ground Water Oil Clean-up Fund during fiscal years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 for retrofitting, repairing or replacing aboveground oil storage tanks and facilities and \$750,000 during fiscal years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 for distribution to community action agencies for grants and loans to retrofit, repair or replace aboveground oil storage tanks at single-family residences. The amendment proposed to eliminate from the bill the requirement that the Commissioner of Environmental Protection seek reimbursement for such expenditures from the fund.

The amendment also proposed to require the Maine State Housing Authority to transfer to the Department of Environmental Protection, by October 1, 1998, the undistributed balance of funds previously transferred to the authority from the Ground Water Oil Clean-up Fund.

The amendment also proposed to require the Fund Insurance Review Board to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters by January 15, 2000 on the disbursement of funds from the Ground Water Oil Clean-up Fund for the purpose of retrofitting, repairing or replacing aboveground oil storage tanks and facilities, and to recommend whether the law should be amended to allow further disbursements for those purposes.

The amendment also proposed to add an allocation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 613 authorizes the disbursement of \$250,000 from the Ground Water Oil Clean-up Fund during fiscal years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 for retrofitting, repairing or replacing aboveground oil storage tanks and facilities and \$750,000 during fiscal years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 for distribution to community action agencies for grants and loans to retrofit, repair or replace aboveground oil storage tanks at single-family residences. The law requires the Fund Insurance Review Board to report by January 15, 2000 with a recommendation on whether the law should be amended to allow further disbursements for those purposes. It also requires the Maine State Housing Authority to transfer to the Department of Environmental Protection, by October 1, 1998, the undistributed balance of funds previously transferred to the authority from the Ground Water Oil Clean-up Fund.

The law also clarifies the authority of the Finance Authority of Maine to make loans and grants to upgrade the condition of aboveground oil storage tanks. Chapter 613 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 23, 1998.