

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

MEMBERS:

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Sen. John J. Cleveland

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.

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

LD 2117 proposed a General Fund appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Maine State Housing Authority's Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund to help first time home buyers, low-income homeowners, low-income renters and persons with special needs.

LD 2122 An Act to Support the Long-term Care Steering Committee PUBLIC 665

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL J	OTP-AM	H-837 H-849 NASS H-966 MITCHELL J

LD 2122 proposed to appropriate \$17,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 to the Department of Human Services to provide support staff and reimbursement to the Long-term Care Steering Committee.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-837) eliminated the General Fund appropriation contained in the bill and proposed to authorize legislative per diem, regional hearings and a 2-day retreat for the Long-term Care Steering Committee. This amendment also directed the Department of Human Services to absorb all expenses related to these activities within the department's existing, budgeted resources.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-849) eliminated authorization for the Long-term Care Steering Committee to hold a 2-day retreat each year.

House Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-966) clarified provisions regarding compensation of members of the Long-term Care Steering Committee by eliminating authorization for member travel reimbursement.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 665 eliminates authorization for member travel reimbursement to meetings of the Long-term Care Steering Committee and requires the Department of Human Services to provide legislative per diem to the members of the committee utilizing existing budgeted resources.

LD 2126 An Act to Provide Funds for the Maine Apprenticeship Program INDEF PP

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

LD 2126 proposed to appropriate funds to ensure delivery of apprenticeship training and journeyman upgrading, registration of programs and apprentices and development of training courses in conjunction with the Department of Education, the Maine Technical College System, adult education programs and others.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-848) included a General Fund appropriation of \$571,300 in fiscal year 1998-99 to expand the activities of the Maine apprenticeship program. This amendment also included a deallocation of federal funds that is necessary to reflect the increased General Fund commitment. This amendment also added a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 2131 An Act to Restore the State House ONTP

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

LD 2131 proposed to appropriate money from the surplus funds to repair the State House to meet basic health, safety and fire code standards.

LD 2138 Resolve, Directing the Director of the Bureau of Veterans' Services to Study Ways to Improve the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery ONTP

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

LD 2138 proposed to direct the Bureau of Veterans' Services to study ways to improve the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. The resolve also directed the Director of the Bureau of Veterans' Services to give preference to land within a 3-mile radius of the existing cemetery when looking for land to expand the cemetery. The resolve also appropriated funds to hire staff, purchase land, extend the granite wall directory, remedy the drainage problem and provide a reserve fund to hire temporary help to assist in handling the increased workload.

A General Fund appropriation of \$213,888 in fiscal year 1997-98 and \$566,212 in fiscal year 1998-99 was included in Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part A for the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery for one Engineer Technician II position, 2 Heavy Equipment Operator II positions, one Heavy Equipment Operator I position and one Clerk III position in order to meet its obligations to veterans and their dependents as prescribed by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B.

LD 2162 Resolve, to Authorize the Maine State Museum to Purchase Historic Maine Artifacts RESOLVE 86

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E LAWRENCE		S-447 PINGREE

LD 2162
This resolve appropriated \$162,000 from the General Fund to allow the Maine State Museum to purchase historic artifacts.