

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. James D. Libby

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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

Public Law 1997, chapter 657 transfers authority to review the nominations for Commissioner of Public Safety and the Chief of the State Police from the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice.

LD 2154

An Act to Improve State House Utilization

PUBLIC 671

Sponsor(s)
RAND

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
S-533

LD 2154 proposed to limit the excepted space to those offices occupied by the Governor or the Governor's staff in the west wing of the State House. Current law gives the Legislative Council control over all of the State House except for those offices occupied by the Governor or the Governor's staff on January 1, 1982.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-533) proposed to add language requiring the Legislative Council to ensure that the Governor and the Governor's staff have sufficient and appropriate office space in the State House. It also strikes language in current law specifying the uses the Legislative Council may make of the State House space.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 671 amends the law setting forth authority over use of space in the State House. Current law gives the Legislative Council control over all of the State House except for those offices occupied by the Governor or the Governor's staff on January 1, 1982. Chapter 671 limits the excepted space to those offices occupied by the Governor or the Governor's staff in the west wing of the State House. It requires the Legislative Council to ensure that the Governor and the Governor's staff have sufficient and appropriate office space in the State House. It also strikes language in current law specifying the uses the Legislative Council may make of the State House space.

LD 2181

An Act Concerning Reporting Deadlines of Studies Authorized by Law

**PUBLIC 582
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)
MITCHELL E
RAND

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2181 proposed to extend the reporting deadlines of certain studies required in legislation enacted in the First Regular or First Special Session of the 118th Legislature.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 582 extended the reporting deadlines for studies involving the following entities: the Task Force to Study the Cost-effectiveness of the Child Development Services System; the Maine Commission on

Children’s Health Care; the Task Force on Improving Access to Prescription Drugs for the Elderly; the Task Force to Study Economic Opportunity for All Regions of the State; the Commission to Study the Unemployment Compensation System; and the Maine Commission to Study the Certificate of Need Laws. Chapter 582 was enacted as an emergency measure, effective March 4, 1998.

LD 2211 **Resolve, to Repeal a Prior Resolve Authorizing the Exchange of a Parcel of Land Owned by the State with One Owned by Luke Bolduc** **RESOLVE 98**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GAGNE	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-909
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LD 2211 proposed to repeal a previous resolve that required the exchange of all of the land owned by Luke Bolduc, approximately two acres, for about 37 acres of the Maine Veterans' Cemetery. This resolve requires the exchange between Mr. Bolduc and the Cemetery of approximately like-sized pieces of property while straightening out the boundary line of the cemetery.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-909) proposed to correct a Registry of Deeds page number.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 98 repeals a 1996 resolve that required the exchange of all of the land owned by Luke Bolduc, approximately two acres, for about 37 acres of the Maine Veterans’ Cemetery. This resolve requires the exchange by Mr. Bolduc and the Cemetery of approximately like-sized pieces of property and allows for straightening of the cemetery boundary line.

LD 2244 **An Act to Encourage Intergovernmental Cooperation** **PUBLIC 785**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SAXL J GOLDTHWAIT	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-1016 S-761 MICHAUD
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LD 2244 proposed to clarify the authority of counties to develop and contract to provide services to municipalities. The bill also proposed to increase the share of real estate transfer tax retained by counties from 10 percent to 25 percent, to appropriate \$500,000 for pilot projects conducted by counties and to require appointment of four legislators to an executive department task force on intergovernmental cooperation.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1016) proposed to delete the \$500,000 appropriation for grants to counties for pilot projects, remove authorization for counties to contract with unorganized townships and clarify language regarding fees.

Senate Amendment "B" (S-761) proposed to delete sections of the bill increasing the share of real estate transfer tax retained by the counties and authorization for grants to counties for pilot projects.