

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

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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.

Three million dollars would be allocated to the Marine Technology Fund to provide matching grants to educational and nonprofit marine research institutions; \$1,500,000 allocated to the Research Challenge Grants Program to provide matching funds for all research institutions involved in the 5 target technologies. The Maine Technology Fund and the Research Challenge Grants programs would be administered by the Maine Science and Technology Foundation. Two million dollars were proposed for allocation to the Department of Economic and Community Development to be used to pay a portion of the costs of designing and building the Gulf of Maine Aquarium Research Facility to provide space for collaborative research by academic, nonprofit and private fisheries and marine biotechnology researchers. It proposed to require the University of Maine System to establish, fund and maintain an account for maintenance of building space constructed with the proceeds of the bond. It also prohibited the Treasurer of State from releasing bond proceeds to the University of Maine System until it provided evidence of sufficient funds in the account.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-523) added a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 718 authorizes a bond issue to be presented to the voters at the November 1998 general election, in the amount of \$20,000,000, to be used to fund a variety of programs designed to improve the Maine economy through research and development relevant to biotechnology, aquaculture and marine sciences, information technologies, advanced materials engineering and advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture. Thirteen and one-half million dollars of the bond proceeds are allocated to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System for capital improvements and equipment. Three million dollars are allocated to the Marine Technology Fund to provide matching grants to educational and nonprofit marine research institutions; \$1,500,000 is allocated to the Research Challenge Grants Program to provide matching funds for all research institutions involved in the 5 target technologies. The Maine Technology Fund and the Research Challenge Grants programs will be administered by the Maine Science and Technology Foundation. Two million dollars are allocated to the Department of Economic and Community Development to be used to pay a portion of the costs of designing and building the Gulf of Maine Aquarium Research Facility to provide space for collaborative research by academic, nonprofit and private fisheries and marine biotechnology researchers. The act requires the University of Maine System to establish, fund and maintain an account for maintenance of building space constructed with the proceeds of the bond. The act also prohibits the Treasurer of State from releasing bond proceeds to the University of Maine System until it provides evidence of sufficient funds in the account.

LD 2206

An Act to Assist Municipalities with Ice Storm-related Cleanup and Reduce Unemployment

ONTP

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

LD 2206 provided assistance to municipalities for ice storm-related cleanup. It transferred \$4,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund in fiscal year 1997-98 to the Department of Labor to enable the department to recruit and refer unemployed workers to municipalities to assist in the cleanup. The department would reimburse municipalities for the wages and fringe benefits of the individuals employed for this purpose. The department would have been required to seek reimbursement of these funds from all available sources, including the Federal Government, and would deposit the reimbursed funds in the Maine Rainy Day Fund.