

# 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

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*Sen. Anne M. Rand*

*Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon*

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*Staff:*

*David C. Webb, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis*

*Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station*

*Augusta, ME 04333*

*(207)287-1670*



**Maine State Legislature  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013  
Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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](http://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.

5. It transfers permitting authority for aboveground flammable liquid storage facilities from the Office of the State Fire Marshal to the Propane and Natural Gas Board.
6. It amends the general provisions governing occupational and professional licensing to provide for a choice of civil or criminal prosecution for unlicensed practice.
7. It transfers the administrative responsibility for the Maine State Pilotage Commission from the Office of Licensing and Registration to the Department of Transportation.
8. It clarifies that the boards listed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, section 8001-A are included in the complaint procedure of Title 32, section 60-G.
9. It clarifies that the plumbing code applies to internal plumbers and not external or subsurface sewage disposal rules.
10. It clarifies that the enforcement of the plumbing code is the joint responsibility of municipalities and the Plumbers' Examining Board.
11. It clarifies the referenced inspections with respect to propane and natural gas.

**LD 2203**

**An Act to Create the Maine Economic Opportunity Advisory Committee**

**INDEF PP**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

LD 2203 proposed to create the Maine Economic Opportunity Advisory Committee to continue the work of the Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for All Regions of the State. The purpose of the committee was to advise the Legislature on ways to improve economic development opportunities for all regions of the State.

**LD 2229**

**An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development Relating to the Review of the Maine Development Foundation under the State Government Evaluation Act**

**PUBLIC 662**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report  
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2229 proposes to implement the recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development relating to its review of the Maine Development Foundation under the State Government Evaluation Act.

This bill proposed that for the Board of Directors of the Maine Development Foundation determine annual support levels for private and public corporators. It also proposed to set the minimum number of directors at 15

and to allow the board to determine the exact number. It proposed to clarify that, except for the president of the foundation, a person may not serve as a director for more than five consecutive years.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 662 implements the recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development relating to its review of the Maine Development Foundation under the State Government Evaluation Act. Specifically, the law does the following:

1. Allows the Board of Directors of the Maine Development Foundation to determine annual support levels for private and public corporators;
2. Sets the minimum number of directors at 15 and allows the board to determine the exact number; and,
3. Clarifies that, except for the president of the foundation, a person may not serve as a director for more than five consecutive years.

**LD 2238**

**An Act to Create the Kennebec Regional Development Authority**

**P & S 79  
EMERGENCY**

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

LD 2238 proposed to create the Kennebec Regional Development Authority, and authorizes as its participating members all cities, towns and plantations presently located within the Kennebec Valley Economic Development District, which is composed of all of Kennebec County and Somerset County and six municipalities along the western border of Waldo County.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 79 creates the Kennebec Regional Development Authority and authorizes as its participating members all cities, towns and plantations presently located within the Kennebec Valley Economic Development District, which is composed of all of Kennebec County and Somerset County and six municipalities along the western border of Waldo County. Cities, towns and plantations eligible for membership must decide whether to join at a referendum held before June 30, 1999. The act empowers the Authority, upon a majority vote of its member municipalities, to issue bonds and to finance the public improvements in support of economic development. Chapter 79 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 3, 1998 for purposes of submission to the voters. The other provision of the law became effective when approved at referendum by cities, towns or plantations with a combined state property valuation of \$3 billion, provided the number of votes in each municipality equals or exceeds 10 percent of the votes cast in the last gubernatorial election.