

# 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:**

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*Sen. John M. Nutting*

*Sen. Jeffrey H. Butland*

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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](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.

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 231: Rules Relating to Drinking Water, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Human Services**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM MAJ	H-993
	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 2233 proposed to provide for legislative review and authorization of final adoption of Chapter 231: Rules Relating to Drinking Water, a major substantive rule of the Department of Human Services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-993)**, the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources, proposed to add a mandate preamble to the resolve. The amendment also proposed to require the Commissioner of Human Services to monitor issues relating to the contamination of drinking water by methyl tertiary-butyl ether, or MTBE, and report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters no later than January 1, 2000 with a recommendation on whether to retain or lower the maximum contaminant level for MTBE. The amendment proposed to give the committee authority to report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature regarding the maximum contaminant level for MTBE.

The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note.

**Committee Amendment "B" (H-994)**, the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources, proposed to require that prior to final adoption of Chapter 231: Rules Relating to Drinking Water, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Human Services, the rule must be amended to establish a maximum contaminant level for methyl tertiary-butyl ether of 15 parts per billion rather than the proposed maximum contaminant level of 35 parts per billion.

The amendment proposed to require the Commissioner of Human Services to monitor issues relating to the contamination of drinking water by methyl tertiary-butyl ether, or MTBE, and report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters no later than January 1, 2000 with a recommendation on whether to retain or lower the maximum contaminant level for MTBE. The amendment proposed to give the committee authority to report out legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature regarding the maximum contaminant level for MTBE.

The amendment also proposed to add a mandate preamble and a fiscal note to the resolve. This amendment was not adopted.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1997, chapter 114 authorizes the Department of Human Services to finally adopt rules that establish a maximum contaminant level for methyl tertiary-butyl ether of 35 parts per billion. The law also requires the Commissioner of Human Services to monitor issues relating to the contamination of drinking water by methyl tertiary-butyl ether, or MTBE, and report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters no later than January 1, 2000 with a recommendation on whether to retain or lower the maximum contaminant level for MTBE.

This resolve was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 3, 1998.