

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

JULY 2000

Staff:

J. Timothy Leet, Senior Legislative Analyst

**Office of Fiscal and Program Review
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Augusta, ME 04333-0005
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Sen. Philip E. Harriman**

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TO: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
 FROM: J. Timothy Leet, Senior Legislative Analyst
 DATE: July, 2000
 RE: **BILL SUMMARIES, 119th LEGISLATURE, 2nd REGULAR SESSION**

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs during the 2nd Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The summary describes each bill or order and relevant amendments as well as the final action. Also included is a statistical summary of bill activity by the committee. Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the 2nd Regular Session (unless a later date is specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000. Joint Orders are effective when passed.

The bill summaries for your committee also include 4 bills that, although discussed in work sessions, were never referred. LD's 2589, 2646, 2664 and 2692 were discussed as part of your committee process and are therefore included in this document for your information.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the committee this session. It is organized by bill (LD) number and two indices are located at the back of the document that group bills by subject and by LD number. 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
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
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
READ AND PASSED Joint Order passed by the House and Senate
PASSED AS AMENDED..... Joint Order passed as amendment by the House and Senate

A complete summary of bills for all committees will be available in the very near future. Copies will be on file in the Law and Legislative Reference Library and Senate and House offices. You will also soon be able to access these bill summaries from our website.

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

LD 35

An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Create Affordable Housing

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRENNAN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 35 proposed a bond issue in the amount of \$10,000,000 that would have been used by the Maine State Housing Authority for affordable and accessible housing for persons who are homeless, mentally retarded or mentally ill.

LD 132

An Act to Make Changes to the Maine Rainy Day Fund

PUBLIC 749

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAWRENCE		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-714
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LD 132 proposed to increase the limit based on the percentage of the total General Fund revenues that may be transferred into the Maine Rainy Day Fund and require that all funds in the Reserve for Sales Tax Account be transferred to the Maine Rainy Day Fund. (Note: this transfer was implemented by Public Law 1999, chapter 401).

Committee Amendment "A" (S-714) proposed to replace the bill. It would change the title of the bill and clarify the manner in which the Maine Rainy Day Fund may receive surplus General Fund revenue at the end of a fiscal year. It also proposed to direct investment income that would otherwise accrue to the General Fund when the Maine Rainy Day Fund is at its 6% cap to be transferred to the Retirement Allowance Fund, effective in fiscal year 2002-03. This amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-738) proposed to require that the investment income from the Maine Rainy Day Fund that would otherwise be transferred to the General Fund be transferred instead, in equal amounts, to the Retirement Allowance Fund and a fund would be established by the Department of Education for improvement of school facilities. No transfer would be made until after July 1, 2003, pursuant to the effective date in Committee Amendment "A."

Enacted Law Summary:

Public Law 1999, chapter 749 clarifies the manner in which the Maine Rainy Day Fund receives surplus General Fund revenue at the end of each year, clarifying that the Maine Rainy Day Fund transfer is the first priority before any other transfer. Effective July 1, 2003, it also directs investment income that would otherwise accrue to the General Fund when the Maine Rainy Day Fund is at its statutory 6% cap to be transferred to the Retirement Allowance Fund.