

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

JULY 1999

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees
August 1999

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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:

CARRIED OVER.....Bill carried over to Second Regular Session
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
ENACTMENT FAILED..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage
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

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

LD 253**Resolve, to Cable Televis the Proceedings of the Legislature****CARRIED OVER**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ANDREWS MILLS | | |

LD 253, which was carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to direct the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to develop a system to cable televise the proceedings of the Legislature. Under the resolve, such a system must be effective no later than January 1, 2001. The resolve also would require the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to report on the implementation of the resolve by January 1, 2000 to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government.

LD 264**An Act to Establish English as the Official State Language****ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| SHIELDS | ONTP | |

LD 264 proposed to establish English as the official state language for all public records and documents and for all public proceedings and executive sessions. The bill proposed several exemptions to the official language requirement including instruction in foreign languages, promotion of international commerce and trade, and protection of public health, public safety or emergency services.

LD 299**An Act to Create a Governance System for Unorganized Towns****CARRIED OVER**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| JOY | | |

LD 299, which was carried over to the Second Regular Session, is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to create a governance system for unorganized towns. It would make several changes to the laws governing unorganized towns, the deorganization of municipalities, and the Land Use Regulation Commission as follows.

1. It would establish a council-type government for all unorganized towns in Maine. Membership is to be comprised of one representative per populated unorganized town and voting weighted one person-one vote.
2. This bill would allow property owners in unpopulated towns to select a representative to serve on an advisory board to the governing council.
3. This bill would authorize the unorganized towns to establish their own school governance system.
4. It would require use of the Land Use Regulation Commission's Development Plan for three years with no changes. Further, it would authorize the election of members to a body to oversee land and economic development. It would require LURC to be phased out over three years.
5. It would prohibit land in unorganized towns from being removed from tax rolls regardless of the tax status of the buyer.