

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TAXATION

AUGUST 1999

Staff:

Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Fiscal and Program Review
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Augusta, ME 04333-0005
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MEMBERS:

*Sen. Richard P. Ruhlin, Chair
Sen. Beverly C. Daggett
Sen. S. Peter Mills*

*Rep. Kenneth T. Gagnon, Chair
Rep. Bonnie Green
Rep. Thomas M. Davidson
Rep. Patrick Colwell
Rep. Stephen S. Stanley
Rep. David G. Lemoine
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Rep. Eleanor M. Murphy
Rep. John T. Buck
Rep. Peter E. Cianchette*



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MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
From: Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst
Date: August, 1999
Re: Bill Summaries, 119th Legislature, 1st 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 Taxation during the 1st 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 1st Regular Session (unless a later date is specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999. Joint orders are effective when passed.

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:

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
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 amended 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.

LD 239 **An Act to Amend the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'GARA	ONTP MAJ	
MACK	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 239 proposed to remove from participation in the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law any forest land that is owned by a public municipal corporation that is located outside the limits of that public municipal corporation.

LD 251 **An Act to Increase the Snowmobile Trail Fund** **ONTP**

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

LD 251 proposed to increase from .5% to 1.0% the amount set aside from the excise tax on internal combustion fuel for the Snowmobile Trail Fund and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

LD 254 **An Act to Exempt Children's Clothing from Sales Tax** **ONTP**

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

LD 254 proposed to exempt clothing in children’s sizes from the sales tax.

LD 262 **An Act to Amend the BETR Program Regarding Reimbursement and Eligibility** **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GAGNON	OTP-AM MAJ	
CAREY	ONTP MIN	

LD 262 proposed to amend the business equipment tax reimbursement (BETR) program to limit reimbursement to the taxes paid on 90% of the value of the eligible property. It also proposed to reduce the number of years that eligible property is subject to reimbursement from 12 years to 10 years.

LD 263 **An Act to Increase the Cigarette Tax 63 Cents Per Pack** **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GAGNON	ONTP	
PINGREE		

LD 263 proposed to increase the cigarette tax by 31.5 mills per cigarette or 63 cents per 20-cigarette pack.

LD 279 **An Act to Adjust the Taxation of Public Pensions** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> FULLER DAGGETT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 279 proposed to provide an income tax deduction of 40% of state and federal retirement pension benefits to the extent included in federal adjusted gross income. See LD 1268.

LD 283 **An Act to Protect Municipalities from Property Tax Loss when Land is Acquired by the State** **DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CARR KIEFFER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 283 proposed to require the State to reimburse municipalities and the unorganized territory for property tax revenue lost as a result of the State acquiring land or interests in land after October 1, 1999.

LD 285 **An Act to Amend the Required Sales Tax on the Purchase of Firearms** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WHEELER G		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 285 proposed to provide that the sales tax due on the sale of a firearm is calculated on the difference between the sale price and the value of any firearm that is traded in on that purchase.

LD 291 **An Act to Provide a State Income Tax Credit for the Costs of Health Insurance Paid by Individuals** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MAYO		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 291 proposed to establish a state income tax credit for up to 50% of the health insurance premiums paid by individuals.

LD 297 **An Act to Exempt Capital Gains from the Maine Income Tax** **CARRIED OVER**