

# 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](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:

*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.

6. This bill would authorize the new governance structure for unorganized towns to enter into contracts with counties, municipalities and the state, as well as Native Americans, for various services.
7. It would require county services to the unorganized towns to be phased out over three years.
8. This bill would not affect the sovereignty of unorganized territory owned by Native Americans, but does allow cooperative agreements to be developed among Native Americans and the council of the unorganized towns. It also would require Native Americans to establish zoning and land use plans for their lands in the unorganized towns.
9. It would require that a name and a seat of government be established for the unorganized towns operating through their governance structure.
10. It would grant all rights and privileges of organized municipalities, towns and cities to the unorganized towns operating through their governance structure.
11. This bill would require the unorganized towns, operating through their governance structure, to draft a charter.
12. It would allow islands to petition the governance board to contract services with neighboring communities.
13. This bill would require plantations to develop their own zoning plans.
14. It would allow organized municipalities to deorganize in the future and, with permission of the Legislature, to join the governance system of the unorganized towns.

A subcommittee of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government has been charged with acquiring additional information about the proposals contained in the bill and with directing staff in redrafting the bill. The subcommittee will report back to the State and Local Government Committee during the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature.

**LD 304**                      **Resolve, to Establish the Task Force on State Office Building Location, Other State Growth-related Capital Investments and Patterns of Development**                      **RESOLVE 63 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GAGNON CAREY	OTP-AM    MAJ ONTP        MIN	H-292 S-458    MICHAUD

LD 304 proposed to create the State Office Building Location Task Force to assess the impact of relocating state offices away from service center communities and away from traditional downtown service centers.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-292)** proposed to rename the resolve and the task force created by the resolve and to expand the task force's duties to include growth-related capital investment within and outside areas that have been designated by municipalities for growth and redevelopment. It also proposed to expand task force membership and to allow the task force to establish working groups to help it carry out its duties. The amendment also proposed that the task force consider the concepts contained within other related legislation presented to the 119th Legislature and to assess the impact of growth-related capital investments within and outside of locally designated growth areas. It also proposed to add an appropriation of \$4,175 to cover the costs of the task force.

**Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-458)** proposed to change the title of the resolve and the name of the task force created by the resolve. The amendment proposed to change the membership of the task force to