

# 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**

**MEMBERS:**

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Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait  
Sen. Paul T. Davis*

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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 439 proposed to eliminate the requirement that the county budget needs to be reviewed by the Hancock County legislative delegation.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-69)** proposed to address the original bill's objective of eliminating the requirement that the Hancock County legislative delegation formally review the annual Hancock County budget. The amendment also proposed to reconfirm the statutory requirement that the county commissioners notify the legislative delegation of the informational meeting on the budget estimates and that they provide members of the legislative delegation with a copy of the final budget estimates prior to the informational meeting.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 83 eliminates from current law the requirement that the Hancock County legislative delegation formally review the annual county budget. Public Law 1999, chapter 83 does, however, retain the requirement that county commissioners provide members of the legislative delegation with a copy of final budget estimates prior to the annual informational meeting on the county budget.

**LD 448**

**An Act Regarding the Maintenance of Private Roads**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TOWNSEND NUTTING J		

LD 448, which was carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes that members of private road associations not be required to pay for major improvements to the road, such as paving. Under current law, a majority of the members of private road associations may determine what repairs need to be made to the road and may require all its members to pay for those repairs.

**LD 469**

**An Act Concerning the Requirement for Surety Bonds for County Treasurers, Sheriffs and Chief Deputies**

**PUBLIC 22**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JABAR LIBBY	OTP	

LD 469 proposed to allow for surety and fidelity insurance coverage provided by a public sector self-funded risk pool organized pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 2253, in sums equal to or exceeding those required by law to be substituted for a bond in meeting the statutory bond requirements for county treasurers, sheriffs and chief deputies. It also removes the requirement that the bond be filed with the State Auditor.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 22 amends current law that requires county treasurers, sheriffs and chief deputies to each provide a bond to the county for faithful discharge of their duties. Public Law 1999, chapter 22 allows a public self-funded risk pool organized under section 2253 of 30-A MRSA to be used to provide surety and fidelity insurance coverage in the place of the bond. The law thus removes duplication of bonding. Public Law 1999, chapter 22 also removes the requirement that a copy of the sheriff's bond be filed with the State Auditor. It also eliminates a requirement that the county clerk report to the State Auditor the findings of the county commissioners annual review of the sufficiency of the sheriff's bond.