

# 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:**

*Sen. Peggy A. Pendleton, Chair  
Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait  
Sen. Paul T. Davis*

*Rep. Douglas J. Ahearne, Chair  
Rep. Martha A. Bagley  
Rep. Benjamin L. Rines, Jr.  
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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
ONT P.....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OT P ND.....	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
OT P 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 482****An Act Concerning County Treasurers****ONTP**

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

LD 482 proposed to abolish the position of elected county treasurer and to require that county commissioners appoint a county treasurer at the completion of the elected treasurer's term of office. It also proposed that county commissioners in each county set professional standards and minimum qualifications for appointed county treasurers. The bill would have required that the standards or qualifications adopted by county commissioners be recommended by a nationally-recognized organization of public sector financial officers.

**LD 494****An Act to Facilitate Implementation of Municipal Growth Management Programs****ONTP**

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

LD 494 proposed to amend the definition of "moratorium" to exempt building permit limitation ordinances adopted pursuant to and consistent with a comprehensive plan enacted in accordance with Title 30-A, chapter 187, subchapter I.

**LD 497****An Act to Promote the Use of the Secret Ballot at Town Meetings****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ANDREWS	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 497 proposed to extend the required use of a secret ballot for town meeting votes to the election of town officials, approval of local initiatives and adoption of budget articles.

**LD 507****An Act to Allow Municipalities to Advertise Legal Notices in Weekly Newspapers****ONTP**

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

LD 507 proposed to allow municipalities to advertise public legal notices in local weekly newspapers, of general circulation to satisfy notice requirements. More precisely, sponsors of the bill were proposing that municipalities be allowed to satisfy legal notice requirements by advertising in third class mailed or free distribution newspapers in addition to second class mailed or paid circulation newspapers as is required under current law. Municipalities already may advertise in local weekly newspapers as long as those newspapers are second class mailed or paid circulation papers.