

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

AUGUST 1999

**MEMBERS:**

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*Sen. Mary R. Cathcart*  
*Sen. Philip E. Harriman*

*Rep. Elizabeth Townsend, Chair*  
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*Rep. Richard A. Nass*

**Staff:**

*J. Timothy Leet, Senior Legislative Analyst*

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: J. Timothy Leet, Senior 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 Appropriations and Financial Affairs 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.

	PPP-2	Provides a one-time General Fund appropriation in FY 00 to the Snowmobile Trail Fund for trail maintenance equipment
QQQ	QQQ-1	Increases the personal exemption under the Maine individual income tax law to \$2,850 beginning on or after 1/1/00 and eliminates the indexing of the personal exemption.
RRR	RRR-1:RRR-3	Provides a state income tax credit equal to the federal income tax credit for the rehabilitation of certified historic structures
SSS	SSS-1:SSS-2	Requires a biennial review and rulemaking related to the rates of reimbursement for consumer-directed personal care attendants
	SSS-3:SSS-4	Provides General Fund appropriations and Federal Expenditures Fund allocations for personal care attendants
TTT	TTT-1	Provides a one-time General Fund appropriation in FY 00 for the Donated Dental Services program
	TTT-2	Provides an allocation from the Fund for a Healthy Maine in FY 01 for the Donated Dental Services program and for additional Head Start activities
UUU	UUU-1	Adjusts appropriations in order to provide funds to deliver enhanced workplace skills for juveniles
	UUU-2	Authorizes funds in certain departments to carry to June 30, 2000

**LD 618**

**An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1999, June 30, 2000 and June 30, 2001**

**PUBLIC 16  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TOWNSEND MICHAUD	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-43 H-51 TOWNSEND
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LD 618

Part A proposed the budget preamble and current services appropriations and allocations of funds.

Part B proposed the following:

1. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund representing reduction proposals or adjustments;
2. Proposed allocations from Federal Expenditures to support the General Fund reduction proposals or adjustments; and

3. Proposed allocations from the State Alcoholic Beverage Fund to support the General Fund reduction proposals or adjustments.

Part C proposed to specify the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools actual education cost certification and appropriation levels for fiscal year 1999-00 as required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15605.

Part D proposed to:

1. Provide that the personal exemption amount for income tax purposes is subject to adjustment only when inflation is greater than 3.5%; and
2. Reduce the benefit base for nonelderly rent participants in the Maine Residents Property Tax Program from 18% of gross rent paid during the tax year to 15%.

Part E proposed to provide for the closing of all state-operated liquor stores by October 31, 1999 and the privatization of the sale of liquor in Maine.

Part F proposed to decrease the State's share of a retired educator's health insurance premium to 25% on July 1, 1999.

Part G proposed to lapse funds to the General Fund in fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01.

Part H proposed to present a comprehensive list of tax expenditures for the consideration of the Legislature.

Part I proposed to include unallocated language to guide the management of numerous Other Special Revenue funds, Federal Block Grant funds and enterprise funds.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-43)** Part A proposed the following:

1. Proposed budgetary guidance to Maine State Government for the 2000-2001 biennium; and
2. Proposed appropriations and allocations of funds for current services for the 2000-2001 biennium.

Part B proposed the following:

1. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund as adjustments to the amounts in Part A;
2. Proposed allocations from the Federal Expenditures Fund to support the General Fund reduction adjustments;
3. Proposed allocations from Other Special Revenue funds to support the General Fund reduction proposals or adjustments; and
4. Proposed allocations from the Retiree Health Insurance Fund for the 2000-2001 biennium.

Part C proposed to specify the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools actual education cost certification and appropriation levels for fiscal year 1999-00 as required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15605.

Part D proposed to reduce the benefit base for nonelderly rent participants in the Maine Residents Property Tax Program from 18% of gross rent paid during the tax year to 15%.

Part E proposed to replace the authority of the State Tax Assessor to make expenditures for audit and collection services without accounting for those expenditures as part of the State's normal process of authorizing and accounting for expenditures. Those funds that were previously expended on a basis other than a contingency basis are appropriated from the General Fund. The expenditures for audit and collection services that are contracted out on a contingency basis would

be paid from a dedicated revenue account. The State Controller would transfer amounts necessary to cover these contingency-based services authorized by the State Tax Assessor. The amounts would be expended and accounted for in the same manner as all other state funds.

Part F proposed to provide for the costs associated with a collective bargaining agreement between the Maine Technical College System and its employees to be considered and included in the Governor's operating budget. Rejection by the Legislature of any cost items would require the parties to continue their bargaining.

Part G proposed to:

1. Change the expanded archery deer hunting license and season;
2. Lapse funds from the Carrying Balances - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program to the General Fund; and
3. Appropriate funds from the General Fund to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Part H proposed to present a comprehensive list of tax expenditures for the consideration of the Legislature.

Part I proposed to include unallocated language to guide the management of numerous Other Special Revenue funds, Federal Block Grant and enterprise funds.

Part J proposed to appropriate \$800,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 1998-99 for the Preschool Handicapped program.

Part K proposed to continue the Voluntary Employee Incentive Program.

Part L proposed to direct the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to review the licensing boards administered by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to assess the continuing need for each board and any administrative efficiencies that could result by combining 2 or more boards. The commissioner would be required to report any recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs by December 31, 1999.

Part M proposed to:

1. Rename the General Fund program the "Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund" at the Maine State Housing Authority, the "Shelter Operating Subsidy" program; and
2. Direct the Maine State Housing Authority to expend \$600,000 each year of the 2000-2001 biennium from its real estate transfer tax receipts for Shelter Operating Subsidy program purposes.

Part N proposed to exempt the Maine Seed Potato Board from certain state purchasing requirements.

Part O proposed to direct the Commissioner of Human Services, the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Director of the State Planning Office to review the missions and services provided by those state programs receiving fees or assessments from nuclear facilities and from license holders for any nuclear reactor or generators of nuclear radioactive waste and assess any administrative efficiencies that could be achieved among those programs. The group would be required to report any recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy by December 31, 1999.

Part P proposed to require the Department of Human Services to report annually on or before January 15th to the Legislature on the impact of the elimination of Medicare Part A crossover payments.

**House Amendment "D" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-51)** corrected a clerical error in a program name and clarified reporting requirements regarding recommendations of various state agencies.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 16

A	A-1: A-24 A-25	Budget Preamble "Current Services" Appropriations & Allocations
B	B-1 B-2 B-3 B-4	General Fund Appropriations and Deappropriations as Adjustments to Current Services Federal Expenditures Fund Allocations and Deallocations Other Special Revenue Funds Allocations and Deallocations Retiree Health Insurance Fund Allocations
C	C-1  C-2:C-6	Establishes the basic elementary and secondary per pupil operating rates, per pupil guarantee and statewide factor for General Purpose Aid  Establishes the basic education allocation and appropriation funding level for fiscal year 1999-00
D	D-1:D-2	Reduces the benefit base for nonelderly renter participants in the Maine Residents Property Tax Program from 18% to 15% of gross rent paid for applications filed on or after 8/1/99
E	E-1  E-2  E-3  E-4	Requires that expenditures for audit and collection services that are contracted out on a contingency basis by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services be paid from a dedicated revenue account and accounted for in the same manner as all other state funds  Appropriates funds from the General Fund to the Bureau of Revenue Services for 24 positions and "fixed costs" associated with audit and collection services  Allocated Other Special Revenue funds to the Bureau of Revenue Services for "contingency-based" revenue collection efforts  Provides a July 1, 1999 effective date for the Part
F	F-1	Requires the costs associated with a collective bargaining agreement between the Maine Technical College System and its employees be included in the Governor's operating budget
G	G-1:G-5  G-6:G-7	Makes changes to the expanded archery deer hunting license and season  Lapses funds in the carrying balances in the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife program to the General Fund in fiscal years 1999-000 and 2000-01



	G-8	Appropriates funds from the General Fund to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
H	H-1	Presents a list of tax expenditures to be continued by the Legislature in accordance with Title 5, section 1666
I	I-1:I-7	Provides unallocated language directives for Other Special Revenue funds, Federal Block Grant funds and enterprise funds
J	J-1	Appropriates \$800,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 1998-99 for the Preschool Handicapped program
K	K-1:K-4	Continues the Voluntary Employee Incentive Program
L	L-1:L-2	Directs the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to review the licensing boards administered by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to assess the continuing need for each board and present recommendations to the Legislature by December 31, 1999
M	M-1: M-2	Renames the General Fund program "Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund" in the Maine State Housing Authority, the "Shelter Operating Subsidy" program
	M-3	Directs the Maine State Housing Authority to expend additional funds from the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund for the Shelter Operating Subsidy program
N	N-1	Exempts the Maine Seed Potato Board from certain state purchasing requirements
O	O-1:O-2	Directs the Commissioner of Human Services, the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Director of the State Planning Office to develop a cost savings plan for those agencies receiving fees or assessments from nuclear facilities and present their recommendations to the Legislature by December 31, 1999
P	P-1	Requires the Department of Human Services to report annually to the Legislature on the impact of the elimination of Medicare Part A crossover payments

**LD 674**

**An Act to Support Community Radio**

**ONTP**

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

LD 674 proposed annual appropriations of \$100,000 to provide support for community nonprofit radio stations in Maine.