

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:

Sen. Michael H. Michaud, Chair
Sen. Mary R. Cathcart
Sen. Philip E. Harriman

Rep. Elizabeth Townsend, Chair
Rep. Kathleen A. Stevens
Rep. Randall L. Berry
Rep. Richard H. Mailhot
Rep. Judith A. Powers
Rep. Paul L. Tessier
Rep. Richard Kneeland
Rep. Tom J. Winsor
Rep. Joseph Bruno
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.

LD 797**An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$9,400,000 to Enable Maine Public Broadcasting to Implement the Federally Mandated Conversion to Digital Broadcasting****P & S 57**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> AMERO SAXL M	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-443
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LD 797 proposed a bond issue in the amount of \$9,400,000 that would have been used by the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation to implement the federally mandated conversion to digital broadcasting.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-443), the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs proposed to lower the term of the bond, clarified possible repayment provisions should the Federal Government contribute toward the conversion costs.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 57 authorizes a bond issue to be presented to the voters at the 1999 general election in the amount of \$ 9,400,000 to be used to implement the conversion to digital broadcasting by the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation.

LD 807**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing a Rainy Day Fund CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BENNETT	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 807 proposed to establish a General Fund reserve fund. The fund would be used to cover actual or projected General Fund revenue shortfalls in any state fiscal year; for prepayment of outstanding General Fund bonds; for prepayment of any unfunded liabilities of the Maine State Retirement System related to state government employees or teachers; and for major construction projects exceeding \$1,000,000. This bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature.

LD 827**An Act to Promote the Cranberry Industry and to Encourage Cultivation of Cranberries in the State****P & S 45
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SHOREY CASSIDY	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-156 S-392 MICHAUD
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LD 827 proposed to provide funding of \$50,000 a year for the next 2 years for the Integrated Pest Management Fund for cranberries and proposed additional funding of \$44,467 a year for 2 years for a full-time cranberry entomologist position for the program.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-156) proposed to continue funding for an integrated pest management program for cranberries at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension by proposing the appropriation of funding through the