MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE 119TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

JULY 2000

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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OFFICE OF FISCAL AND PROGRAM REVIEW

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TO:

Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM:

J. Timothy Leet, Senior Legislative Analyst

DATE:

July, 2000

RE:

BILL SUMMARIES, 119th LEGISLATURE, 2nd 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 2nd 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 2nd Regular Session (unless a later date is specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000. Joint Orders are effective when passed.

The bill summaries for your committee also include 4 bills that, although discussed in work sessions, were never referred. LD's 2589, 2646, 2664 and 2692 were discussed as part of your committee process and are therefore included in this document for your information.

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:

CON RES XXX
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREECommittee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES
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 BODYRuled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP ND
OTP ND/NT
P&S XXX
PUBLIC XXX
RESOLVE XXX

UNSIGNED	Bill held by Governor
	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto
	Joint Order passed by the House and Senate
	oint Order passed as amendment 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.

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
JOY	ONTP	MAJ	
	OTP-AM	MIN	

LD 462 proposed to require the Treasurer of State to deposit all fines, penalties and forfeitures received by all state departments and agencies into the General Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-813) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to amend several sections in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38 relating to revenue from fines, forfeitures and penalties that are dedicated to several funds within the Department of Environmental Protection. Those revenues would have accrued to the General Fund effective July 1, 2001.

This amendment also proposed to require the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs by December 1, 2000 with a listing of all dedicated fines, forfeitures and penalties and implementing legislation to credit those dedicated revenues to the General Fund. The amendment also proposed to allow the commissioner to exclude from the legislation certain dedicated fines if a justification was included in the report for each fine, forfeiture or penalty excluded.

LD 516 An Act to Restore and Improve Family Planning and Pregnancy Prevention Services

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
TOWNSEND
MILLS

Committee Report ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 516 proposed to provide General Fund appropriations totaling \$1,000,000 during the 2000-2001 biennium for the Department of Human Services to purchase family planning and pregnancy prevention services.

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

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
BENNETT

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 807 proposed to establish a General Fund reserve fund. The fund would have been 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.

LD 864

An Act to Establish the Expenditure Forecasting Committee

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
O'NEIL	ONTP	MAJ	
HARRIMAN	OTP-AM	MIN	

LD 864 proposed to establish an Expenditure Forecasting Committee in order to provide the executive and legislative branches with analyses, findings and recommendations related to the projection of expenditures for the General Fund, Highway Fund and other funds of State Government. The committee would have been modeled on the Revenue Forecasting Committee, originally established in statute in 1995.

This bill also proposed to make technical changes to the authorizing legislation of the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission and the Revenue Forecasting Committee so as to clarify their relationship to the Economic Forecasting Committee.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-781) proposed to make a technical change to reflect a change in the law made by Public Law 1999, chapter 127 and add a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 937 An Act to Improve Access to Health Care for School-age Children

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
FULLER	ONTP	
LIBBY		

LD 937 proposed to provide a General Fund appropriation of \$300,000 in each of fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01 for the Department of Human Services to support the 14 school-based health centers in Maine to allow them to continue to provide a wide range of easily accessible health-related services to Maine students. The proposed support was considered necessary because existing state, federal and private funding sources have traditionally been available only to start up these centers and because operating revenues, which are primarily derived from 3rd-party payors of health services, were frequently insufficient to maintain many essential services.

LD 1191 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$5,000,000 to Promote the Cranberry Industry

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CASSIDY	ONTP	
ROWE		

LD 1191 proposed to create the Cranberry Product Loan Fund and the Cranberry Product Loan Program as mechanisms to promote the cranberry industry in Maine. The Cranberry Product Loan Program would have been administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. The authority would have made loans under the program to eligible borrowers for cranberry growing, harvesting, processing or marketing projects. Because of the length of time it takes to raise a marketable crop of cranberries, the authority would have had the ability to defer loan payments if necessary.

The bill also proposed a bond issue of \$5,000,000 to capitalize the Cranberry Product Loan Fund.

ONTP

ONTP