

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

JULY 1999

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Susan W. Longley
Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon*

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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).

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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PINGREE BERRY R	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-105
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LD 869 proposed to add a fidelity bond or liability insurance requirement for payroll processors who register with the State Tax Assessor.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-105) proposed to provide more specific information about the type of liability coverage required and changed the minimum amount of coverage payroll processors would be required to obtain. This amendment also added an effective date of January 1, 2000 and added a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 172 requires each registered payroll processor to provide proof of fidelity bond, employee dishonesty bond, third-party fidelity coverage or liability insurance. Chapter 172 is effective January 1, 2000.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WINSOR	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-234
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LD 941 proposed to allow a minority of the owners of a certified public accounting or public accounting firm to be nonlicensed.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-234) proposed to clarify the requirements for nonlicensee owners of certified public accounting or public accounting firms. This amendment also added a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 200 allows accounting firms with a minority of nonlicensed owners to apply for a permit to practice.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KILKELLY	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-309 S-411 MICHAUD
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LD 949 proposed to amend the laws governing the Small Enterprise Growth Program to allow investments to be made in companies with sales not exceeding \$5,000,000 or 50 or fewer employees. This change would make the eligibility consistent with the Finance Authority of Maine's small business loan insurance program.

The bill would set terms of members of the Small Enterprise Growth Board at 2 years, rather than one year, with a maximum of 3 consecutive 2-year terms. It would increase the amount the board can invest in any recipient from