

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

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Sen. Paul T. Davis*

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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.

LD 904

An Act to Provide Term Limits for the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives

NOT PROPERLY BEFORE BODY

Sponsor(s)
MURPHY

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 904 proposed to place term limits on the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives. The limitations would be similar to the six-year term limit in current law for the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives and floor leaders, except this bill proposed to set the term limitations for the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives at eight years. The calculation of the limitation period would begin with the first convening of the 119th Legislature.

This bill was ruled not properly before the body in both the House and the Senate

LD 922

An Act to Provide Computers for Use in the Legislature

INDEF PP

Sponsor(s)
GERRY
RAND

Committee Report
OTP-AM MAJ
ONTP MIN

Amendments Adopted

LD 922 proposed to require the Legislative Council to implement provisions for a computerization plan by July 1, 1999 for the Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-320), which was not adopted, proposed to remove the emergency preamble and the emergency clause from the bill. It also proposed to eliminate a requirement that the Legislative Council approve and implement a plan to provide an automated computer system for managing legislative activity by July 1, 1999. The amendment also proposed to add a requirement that the Presiding Officers of the Legislature and Director of the Legislative Information Office report annually on the establishment of the legislative computer system to the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over state and local government matters. It proposed to repeal this reporting requirement effective January 15, 2006. The amendment also proposed to add an appropriation section to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-306), which was not adopted, proposed to offset the cost of the new Network Administrator position and Desktop Support Assistant positions and the expenses associated with the bill by eliminating three chamber staff positions in the House and Senate and reducing the amount given to the Legislature for other expenses.

LD 923

An Act to Extend the Penobscot County Budget Committee

PUBLIC 89

Sponsor(s)
FISHER
RUHLIN

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-88

LD 923 proposed to delay the repeal of the Penobscot County Budget Committee from December 31, 1999 to December 31, 2003.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-88) proposed to add a mandate preamble to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 89 extends the life of the Penobscot County Budget Committee an additional four years beyond its statutory repeal date of December 31, 1999. The new law repeals the budget committee effective December 31, 2003.

LD 924 **An Act to Require That a Harbor Master be Appointed by the Municipal Officers** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SKOGLUND		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 924 proposed to clarify current law to require that harbor masters be appointed by the municipal officers rather than elected at town meeting or general election.

LD 946 **An Act to Change the Composition of the Somerset County Budget Committee** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MILLS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 946 proposed to eliminate the three-Legislator advisory, nonvoting members of the Somerset County Budget Committee and to include a single Legislator on the Somerset County Budget Committee to serve as a voting member of the committee.

LD 970 **Resolve, Authorizing the Knox County Commissioners to Borrow Not More than \$1,000,000 for Construction or Renovation of a District Court and Office Areas in Knox County** **RESOLVE 59 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MCNEIL PINGREE		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-407 H-569 MCNEIL
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LD 970 proposed to authorize the Knox County commissioners to borrow up to \$2,500,000 for the construction or renovation of a District Court and office areas in Knox County. The Judicial Department would be responsible for reimbursing Knox County for all debt service costs as well as for the annual maintenance and janitorial services associated with the District Court facility.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-407) proposed to change the title, reduce the amount to be borrowed from \$2,500,000 to \$1,000,000 and to authorize the Knox County Commissioners to hold a county-wide referendum to authorize the commissioners to borrow funds to build or renovate the District Court and office areas in Knox County.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-569) proposed to remove the provision requiring the Judicial Department to reimburse Knox County.