

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

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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.

LD 1176 **An Act to Amend the Real Estate Brokerage Laws Regarding Property Disclosure** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CIANCHETTE DAGGETT		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1176 is being carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The bill proposes to exempt nonresidential property sales from the Maine Real Estate Commission rules on property disclosure.

See also LDs 11, 1083, 1450 and 2130.

LD 1182 **An Act to Amend the Qualifications of Weighmasters** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TESSIER PINGREE		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1182 is being carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The bill proposes to establish a corporate public weighmaster license.

LD 1186 **An Act Regarding the Circumstances under Which a Physician May Be Disciplined** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAGGETT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1186 proposed to allow the Board of Licensure in Medicine to censure or otherwise discipline a person licensed in medicine if that person commits even one act of incompetence on one patient.

LD 1189 **An Act to Ensure Adequate Funding of Certain Public Safety Programs of Occupational or Professional Licensure Boards** **PUBLIC 257**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MACKINNON		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-178
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LD 1189 addressed three separate boards under the jurisdiction of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. The bill proposed to increase the license fee cap of the Board of Licensure of Podiatric Medicine. The bill proposed to raise the licensing fee cap and amend the biennial renewal schedule of the Board of Licensing of Dietetic Practice. Finally, the bill proposed to raise the license fee cap under the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-178) added a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 257 increases the license fee cap of the Board of Licensure of Podiatric Medicine, raises the licensing fee caps and amends the biennial renewal schedule of the Board of Licensing of Dietetic Practice and raises the initial fee cap under the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers.

LD 1206

An Act to Provide for the 1999 and 2000 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds

**PUBLIC 443
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KONTOS O'NEAL	OTP-AM	S-341 S-362 KONTOS

LD 1206 proposed to establish the allocations of the state ceiling on issuance of tax-exempt bonds for calendar years 1999 and 2000. Under federal law, a maximum of \$150,000,000 in tax-exempt bonds benefiting private individuals or entities may be issued in Maine each year. This bill allocates the state ceiling among the state-level issuers of tax-exempt bonds.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-341) replaced the bill and proposed to establish the allocation of the state ceiling on issuance of tax-exempt bonds for calendar years 1999 and 2000.

This amendment would establish the Loans to Lenders Pilot Program to study the feasibility of and implement a pilot program by which private lending institutions could access a portion of the proceeds of bonds issued using an allocation of the state ceiling allocated to the Finance Authority of Maine for education loans. The authority of the Finance Authority of Maine to issue bonds under the Loans to Lenders Pilot Program would terminate on March 1, 2000.

This amendment would change membership of the group that may allocate and reallocate with respect to the state ceiling during any time that the Legislature is not in session.

This amendment would require that bonds issued using an allocation of the state ceiling be used for the benefit of Maine individuals, communities or businesses and would require bond issuers to annually report to the Governor and the Legislature on who benefited from the state ceiling.

This amendment would require an issuer or lender to provide, prior to receiving an allocation of the state ceiling for the issuance of education loans, examples of the disclosures to be made to loan recipients or obligors. It also would require that federally authorized student loans purchased or originated with proceeds of tax-exempt bonds using a portion of the state ceiling be guaranteed by the Finance Authority of Maine until July 15, 2000. The Finance Authority of Maine would be required to use its best efforts to provide competitive rates for the guarantee function. This amendment also creates the requirement that the members of the Maine Educational Loan Authority are subject to confirmation by the Legislature.

This amendment would establish the Commission on the State Ceiling on Tax-exempt Bonds to study the allocation of the state ceiling on tax-exempt bonds. The commission would report its findings and proposed legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development by January 14, 2000.

This amendment also added a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-362) proposed to clarify that credit unions are included in the definition of lenders eligible to receive loans under the Loans to Lenders Pilot Program.

Enacted law summary