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	\boldsymbol{c}
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	\boldsymbol{E}
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote	
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE Bill failed to get majority vote	F
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote	F
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODYRuled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died	Λ
INDEF PP Bill Indefinitely Postponed	II
ONTP Ought Not To Pass report accepted	c
OTP ND	c
OTP ND/NT	
P&S XXX	P
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
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

ONTP

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

ONTP

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.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-416), the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1238 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$10,000,000 for Historic Preservation

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DUNLAP	ONTP	
CATHCART		

LD 1238 proposed a bond issue in the amount of \$10,000,000 that would have been used to support the preservation of battle flags of the Maine's volunteer regiments and other projects designated by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.

LD 1360 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Joint Committee on Substance Abuse

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BRENNAN	ONTP	_
DAGGETT		

LD 1360 proposed to provide an additional General Fund appropriation of \$8,000,000 in fiscal year 1999-00 for the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to implement the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Substance Abuse by providing additional statewide substance abuse protection, intervention and treatment services.

While this bill was reported Ought Not to Pass, allocations from the Fund for a Healthy Maine for the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services for substance abuse services were included in Public Law 1999, Chapter 731, Part JJ.

LD 1453 An Act to Expand the Homestead Exemption Program Based Upon the Level of Funds in a Homestead Tax Relief Fund

ONTP

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
GAGNON	ONTP	
RUHLIN		

LD 1453 proposed to create the Homestead Tax Relief Fund consisting of surplus appropriations for homestead tax exemption reimbursement, the elderly householders' tax relief fund and the Maine Residents Property Tax Program and surplus revenues that would have been deposited in the Maine Rainy Day Fund if that fund had not reached its limit. The amount in the fund would have been used annually to increase the amount of the homestead exemption up to a maximum of \$10,000.