

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

AUGUST 1999

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
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Rep. Tom J. Winsor
Rep. Joseph Bruno
Rep. Richard A. Nass

Staff:

J. Timothy Leet, Senior Legislative Analyst

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MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: J. Timothy Leet, Senior Legislative Analyst

Date: August, 1999

Re: Bill Summaries, 119th Legislature, 1st 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 1st 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 1st Regular Session (unless a later date is specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999. Joint orders are effective when passed.

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:

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*
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 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*
READ AND PASSED..... *Joint Order passed by the House and Senate*
PASSED AS AMENDED *Joint Order passed as amended 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.

LD 1389 **An Act to Establish Fair Funding for Independent and 3rd-Party Legislators** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MENDROS DAVIS P	ONTP	

LD 1389 proposed to establish a budget fund for Independent and 3rd-party Legislators to assist them by providing funds for office space, supplies or equipment. The fund would have been administered by the Executive Director of the Legislative Council.

LD 1408 **An Act to Increase Reimbursement for Hands-on Care to Nursing Home Residents** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINGREE LOVETT	ONTP	

LD 1408 proposed to appropriate \$2,100,000 from the General Fund for each of the fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01 to the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Medical Services, Nursing Facilities program to allow the department to increase reimbursement to nursing facilities for hands-on services to residents. The appropriation would have allowed facilities to hire and retain staff sufficient to meet the needs of residents. The bill also proposed companion allocations from the Federal Expenditures Fund.

LD 1412 **An Act to Fund the Special Educational Adjustment** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOLDTHWAIT	ONTP	

LD 1412 proposed a General Fund appropriation of \$500,000 to the Department of Education to fund special educational adjustments for school administrative units that could demonstrate that the unexpected placement of special education students would cause budgetary hardships.

LD 1451 **An Act to Establish a Fund to Promote Acadian Cultural Tourism for St. Croix Island** **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHOREY CASSIDY	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1451 proposed to provide funding to the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism and Community Development for the purpose of studying and implementing a plan to promote St. Croix Island as a permanent tourist destination and to plan for the St. Croix 2004 celebration. The Department of Economic and Community

Development's development and implementation of the plan was required to involve the Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Calais Regional Chamber of Commerce and the St. Croix 2004 Celebration Committee.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-272) decreased the appropriation to \$25,000 for each of fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01. While this bill was indefinitely postponed, a General Fund appropriation of \$25,000 in fiscal year 1999-00 for this purpose was included in Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part HH.

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

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GAGNON 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. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature.

**LD 1461 An Act to Improve the Efficiency of State Government by Increasing ONTP
Flexibility in Staffing Patterns**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRAGDON MITCHELL B	ONTP	

LD 1461 proposed to eliminate position control beginning with the budget submitted for the 2002-2003 biennium to provide departments and agencies with the flexibility to adjust the number of positions needed within the limits of the Personal Services funds appropriated or allocated.

**LD 1530 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of ONTP
\$120,000,000 for Land Acquisition by the Land for Maine's Future
Board**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHIAH RUHLIN	ONTP	

LD 1530 proposed a bond issue in the amount of \$120,000,000, that would have been used by the Land for Maine's Future Board to acquire lands and easements from willing sellers for public outdoor access and recreation, farmland preservation and conservation and to protect wildlife habitat. The bonds would have been issued over a 3-year period. While LD 1530 was not enacted, Public Law chapter 514 (see LD 2253) was enacted which authorized a \$50,000,000 bond issue for public land acquisition subject to voter approval in November 1999.