

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

JULY 1999

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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 930 appropriate funds to the Maine Science and Technology Foundation for the Maine Research Internships for Teachers and Students (MERITS) program. This funding would allow the MERITS program to continue and expand the number of teachers and students able to participate in research internships.

The provisions of this bill were subsequently amended and incorporated into a committee bill (LD 2243, P&S 1999, chapter 33) and into the Part 2 budget (Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part TT).

LD 1528

An Act to Provide Funds for Applied Research and Development Relevant to the Maine Economy

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ROSEN		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1528 is being carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The bill proposes to establish the Applied Research and Development Fund to be used for applied research and development relevant to the Maine economy. The fund would receive annual General Fund appropriations equivalent to one percent of actual General Fund revenue for the previous year.

The bill also proposes to establish an organization responsible for making awards from the fund. A 12-member governing board would be established to oversee the activities of the organization.

LD 2125

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Target Industries Committee to Promote Research and Development Activities in Maine

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ROWE LAWRENCE		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2125 proposed to establish the Maine Technology Institute as a private nonprofit corporation with a public purpose. The institute would be governed by a board of seven private sector members, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the Chancellor of the University of Maine System, the President of the Maine Science and Technology Foundation, the Director of the State Planning Office and one member of the Legislature appointed by the Speaker and the President who would serve as a nonvoting member.

The bill proposed to appropriate \$15,000,000 in each fiscal year of the biennium to the institute and authorize the institute to disburse the money on a competitive basis to private sector organizations involved in the development or production of new technologies. The institute would be required to report annually to the Legislature on its financial operations and on the use of funds by its grantees. The institute would also be prohibited from spending more than 7% of those funds on its own operations.

The general corporate powers and duties of the institute as a nonprofit corporation with a public purpose were modeled after those established in law for the Maine Science and Technology Foundation and include the right to hire staff and establish salaries, to sue and be sued, to enter into contracts, to incur debt and otherwise generally exercise the powers of other corporations as provided under law.

The bill also proposed to dissolve the institute after seven years, on December 31, 2006, and on that date return to the State all property purchased with General Fund appropriations and transfer to the General Fund all unencumbered appropriations.