

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
TAXATION

AUGUST 1999

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*Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst*

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

From: Julie S. Jones, 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 Taxation 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 1524 proposed to permit owners of farmland to qualify for the farm and open space law based on the farming income of either the owner or lessee of the land.

**Senate Amendment "B" (S-385)** proposed to add a mandate preamble to the bill to relieve the State of the need to reimburse municipalities for any administrative costs associated with implementing the legislation.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 449 permits owners of farmland to qualify for the farm and open space law based on the farming income of either the owner or lessee of the land.

**LD 1540**                      **An Act to Create a Historic Preservation Tax Credit**                      **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TRIPP LIBBY	OTP-AM	

LD 1540 proposed to establish a 20% income tax credit for qualified expenditures equal to or exceeding \$5,000 for the rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties that are listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-492)** proposed to provide a state income tax credit equal to the federal income tax credit for rehabilitation of certified historic structures. The credit would be limited to \$100,000 per taxpayer, be nonrefundable and subject to the same recapture provisions as apply under federal law.

See also the "Part 2" budget bill, PL 1999, chapter 401, Part RRR.

**LD 1542**                      **An Act to Extend the Property Tax Exemption to Veterans of the Berlin Crisis**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCKEE NUTTING J	ONTP	

LD 1542 proposed to extend veterans' property tax exemptions to include veterans who served during the Berlin Crisis between 1961 and 1962.

See also LD 1938, Public Law 1999, chapter 462 under the summaries for the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs.

**LD 1556**                      **An Act Relating to Property Tax Exemptions and Service Charges**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 1556 proposed to reorganize and simplify the current property tax exemption statutes and to permit municipalities to impose a service charge on nonprofit benevolent and charitable organizations equal to the pro rata share of the cost of municipal services, except education.

**LD 1580**                      **An Act to Amend the Time for Filing Audit Reports**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 1580 proposed to change the monthly reporting requirements under the sales tax regarding total sales for the preceding month for businesses employing fewer than 10 people from the 15th of each month to the 30th of each month.

**LD 1587**                      **An Act to Allow the Surviving Veteran Spouse of a Veteran to Continue to Receive the Property Tax Exemption**                      **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIEH KILKELLY		

LD 1587 proposed to allow a surviving spouse of a veteran who is also a veteran to claim exemption from property taxes as the surviving spouse as well as on the veteran's own record.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-388)** proposed to resolve internal statutory conflicts created by the bill and provide that reimbursement to municipalities for the property tax exemptions created by the bill must equal 100% of the property tax loss.

This bill was recommitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation and carried over to the Second Regular Session.

**LD 1594**                      **An Act to Promote Equity Among Health Care Clinics**                      **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ABROMSON MAYO		

LD 1594 proposed to provide the same sales and use tax exemption to nonprofit health clinics that is currently available to hospitals and their affiliated clinics, nonprofit dental health clinics and similar health care providers.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-347)** proposed to replace to bill and extend the exemption for rural community health centers to include all incorporated nonprofit health centers.

This bill was recommitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation and carried over to the Second Regular Session.