

# 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**

**MEMBERS:**

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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](http://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   |
| ONT P.....                        | Ought Not To Pass report accepted                                       |
| OT P ND.....                      | Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft                             |
| OT P 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 1873****An Act to Require Prescription Labels to Include Certain Information****ONTP**

|                             |                                 |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u><br>BENOIT | <u>Committee Report</u><br>ONTP | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|

LD 1873 proposed to require that for all prescriptions written, in addition to information already required on the label, the medical diagnosis for which the prescription is written must also appear on the label.

**LD 1877****An Act to Encourage Lending and Technical Assistance to Natural Resource-based and Micro Businesses****ONTP**

|                                     |                                 |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u><br>TREAT<br>GREEN | <u>Committee Report</u><br>ONTP | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|

LD 1877 proposed to require a state agency or other organization that receives state funding for the purposes of economic and community development to develop a strategy to ensure that natural resource-based businesses and businesses with three or fewer employees have access to lending programs with priority placed upon disseminating information and assistance to rural areas. The bill also proposed to require that an agency or organization required to develop such a strategy report by January 15th of each year to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business and economic development matters concerning the effect and impact of the strategy in relation to the purposes of the bill. The bill also proposed to require the Maine Small Business Commission to coordinate outreach and technical assistance to natural resource-based businesses and businesses with three or fewer employees and to work closely with various state agencies and other programs to develop an overall plan for this outreach and technical assistance.

**LD 1884****An Act to Create a Matching Grant Fund to Provide Technical Assistance to Small Wood Products Manufacturers****ONTP**

|                                      |                                 |                           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u><br>MILLS<br>BAGLEY | <u>Committee Report</u><br>ONTP | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|

LD 1884 proposed to establish the Small Wood Products Manufacturers Fund to be administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. The fund would provide matching grants to small wood products businesses to provide technical assistance to foster innovation or develop new markets or new technologies. Recipients would be required to use the grants to reduce risk and permit access to specific technical expertise for product, technology or business development that is not generally available to small wood products businesses. The grants would be used to hire outside technical or business expertise with preference given to expertise from a college or university in the State. The grants would be matching grants with no one grant to exceed \$10,000, no one small wood products business to receive more than \$10,000 in any 5-year period and the small business recipient to provide 100% matching funds for any grant received. Costs of the grant would be limited to 30% for salaries for the outside experts, 30% to indirect costs and 30% to travel expenses. Grantees would report semiannually on the status of their grant to the Finance Authority of Maine.