

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

JULY 2000

MEMBERS:

Sen. Peggy A. Pendleton, Chair

Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait

Sen. Paul T. Davis

Rep. Douglas J. Ahearne, Chair

Rep. Martha A. Bagley

Rep. Benjamin L. Rines, Jr.

Rep. John F. McDonough

Rep. Joanne T. Twomey

Rep. Randall L. Bumps

Rep. Susan Kasprzak

Rep. Arlan R. Jodrey

Rep. Earl E. Richardson

Rep. Belinda A. Gerry

Rep. Donald G. Soctomah

Staff:

Christopher Spruce, Legislative Analyst

Danielle D. Fox, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207)287-1670



Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
 Telephone: (207) 287-1670
 Fax: (207) 287-1275

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of 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:

- 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

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

Committee amendment “A” (H-792), which was not adopted, proposed to eliminate the retention of a public easement by a municipality when a town way is discontinued. The amendment proposed that the land occupied by the discontinued town way be rejoined to the abutting property from which it was taken. The amendment also proposed to preserve any existing utility easement over the discontinued town way.

LD 1876

An Act to Reform County Governance

ONTP

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

LD 1876 was a concept draft introduced in the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposed to reform county government by amending the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A to create a uniform structure for county governments. Among the proposed changes were: increasing the number of commissioners; making the commissioner districts uniform in size within the county; staggering the terms of the commissioners; and authorizing the commissioners to appoint the sheriff, the register of deeds, the register of probate, the county treasurer, and the Judge of Probate.

The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session. The committee held a second public hearing on a fully-drafted version of the bill that proposed to increase the number of commissioners elected in each county, to reapportion county commissioner districts in 2001 and to require the Legislature to vote on the plan in 2002, to repeal the election of county treasurers and registers of deeds, and to grant the county commissioners of each county the authority to appoint the treasurer and register of deeds and to set their salaries.

LD 2087

An Act to Establish the Public Resources and Information for Maine Foundation

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KONTOS WATSON	OTP-AM	

LD 2087 proposed to establish the Public Resources and Information for Maine Foundation with a General Fund appropriation of \$100,000 for fiscal year 1999-00. The bill also proposed that the foundation be scheduled for review under the State Government Evaluation Act in 2004.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-570), proposed to make several changes to the original bill, including:

- 1 Deleting a section in the original bill establishing a board of corporators;
2. Altering the composition of the Public Resources and Information for Maine Foundation's board of directors;
3. Removing from the services to be developed by the foundation the establishment of dedicated electronic media channels for full-time coverage of legislative and other government proceedings;