

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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

**JULY 1999**

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Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait  
Sen. Paul T. Davis*

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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  
*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 1870 proposed to expand the membership of the Eastport Port Authority to include six members from Washington County. It also would have expanded the liability for new bonds issued by the authority from all property within the boundaries of the City of Eastport to all property within the boundaries of Washington County.

**LD 1876**                      **An Act to Reform County Governance**                      **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 1876, which was carried over to the Second Regular Session, is a concept draft that seeks to reform county government by creating a uniform structure for county governments. The bill proposed to:

1. Increase the number of commissioners;
2. Make the commissioner districts uniform in size within the county;
3. Stagger the terms of the commissioners; and
4. Authorize the commissioners to appoint the following:
  - A. The sheriff;
  - B. The register of deeds;
  - C. The register of probate;
  - D. The county treasurer; and
  - E. The Judge of Probate.

**LD 1887**                      **An Act to Provide Access to Information Services in All Communities of the State**                      **PUBLIC 428**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KONTOS	OTP-AM    A	H-683   AHEARNE
BUMPS	ONTP        B	S-300
	OTP-AM    C	S-321   PENDLETON

LD 1887 proposed to expand access to the electronic databases of the State by creating the Maine Governmental Information Network Board. The board would be charged with overseeing the expansion of the State's wide-area computer network to encompass municipalities, counties and other providers of state services. This bill proposed to require the Secretary of State to provide administrative support to the board. This bill sought an appropriation from the General Fund of \$5,000,000 during the 2000-2001 biennium.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-300)** was the majority report. It proposed to amend the bill by deleting reference to the State's wide-area computer network. It also proposed to delete reference to expansion of the statewide computer network. The amendment also proposed to delete the appropriation section and added a fiscal note. The amendment also proposed to add a new section to the bill that established the Maine Governmental Information Network Fund as a nonlapsing Other Special Revenue fund. It proposed to authorize the Secretary of State to expend money received by the

fund and to utilize the funds to offset actual costs of collecting the fees. The amendment also proposed to authorize the use of the fund to carry out the purposes of the Maine Governmental Information Network Board. It proposed to authorize the State to invest the funds and to credit interest earned to the fund.

**Committee Amendment "B" (S-301)**, which was not adopted, was the minority report. It proposed to amend the bill by striking everything after the enacting clause and inserting several new sections that would amend the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, chapter 14 to authorize the InforME system to assist municipal governments and other providers of state services to connect to a computer network, to provide grants to municipalities and service providers to purchase computer software, hardware and peripherals and to provide technical services to computer network participants. It also proposed to increase the size of the InforME Board membership by two, adding an elected municipal officer and a representative of a governmental service provider who participate in the computer network.

**House Amendment "A" (H-683)** proposed to clarify the appointing authority for the initial public members of the Maine Governmental Information Network Board.

**Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-321)** proposed to add an allocation section and to correct the fiscal note on Committee Amendment "A".

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 428 creates the seven-member Maine Governmental Information Network Board in the Department of Secretary of State to enhance electronic data exchange among state and local governments by assisting municipal governments and other providers of state services to connect to a computer network. The board has the authority to provide grants to municipalities, counties and service providers to purchase computer software, hardware and peripherals and to provide technical services to computer network participants. The board also is authorized to establish fee schedules and to collect fees for technical services or other information systems support. Membership of the board consists of the Secretary of State; the Director of the Bureau of Information Services within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services; two public members, one each appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate; two representatives of municipal government appointed by the Governor; and one representative of a statewide information services group appointed by the Governor. The law also establishes the Maine Governmental Information Network Fund as a nonlapsing Other Special Revenue Account within the Department of the Secretary of State to carry out the purposes of this chapter. An allocation of \$500 from the Fund is authorized in each of fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01.

**LD 1898                      Resolve, That the Director of the Maine State Museum Shall Include the                      RESOLVE 40**  
**Portraits of Outstanding Indians in the State House**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SOCTOMAH		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-325
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LD 1898 proposed to require the Director of the Maine State Museum to include the portraits of outstanding Indians for public display in the State House by January 1, 2000. The Director of the Maine State Museum would consult with the Penobscot Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Houlton Band of Maliseets and the Aroostook Band of Micmacs in carrying out the purposes of this resolve.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-325)** proposed to include in the bill a requirement for the Director of the Maine State Museum by December 31, 1999 to present to the State House and Capitol Park Commission a plan to include outstanding Maine Indians in the collection of State House portraits. The amendment proposed to delete deadline in the resolve.

***Enacted law summary***