

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

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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 1885

Resolve, to Create a Task Force to Study Counterfeiting and the Unauthorized Sale of Consumer Goods and Labels

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
KILKELLY

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1885 proposed to establish the Task Force to Study Counterfeiting and the Unauthorized Sale of Consumer Goods and Labels. Under the bill, the task force would study the increasing sale of counterfeit goods in this State and recommend statutory changes, if needed, to ensure appropriate sanctions are imposed on this activity; the offering for sale of certain consumer goods in flea markets that may endanger the health and well-being of the State's consumers; and the use of improper or counterfeit Universal Price Code labels by persons trying to defraud merchants.

LD 1895

An Act to Establish Enterprise Zones to Fund Businesses in Areas of High Unemployment

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
LAVERDIERE
MILLS

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1895 is being carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

The bill proposes to establish enterprise zones in areas of the State in which the unemployment rate exceeds the statewide average unemployment rate by 75% or more. These enterprise zones would receive priority for all state economic development funds. The bill also proposes to establish a fund in the Finance Authority of Maine and finance the fund through bonds issued by FAME. A business located in an enterprise zone could receive loans from the fund, based on criteria established and administered by FAME.

LD 1900

An Act to Give Consumers Restroom Access

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
SNOWE-MELLO

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1900 proposed to require businesses to make restroom facilities available to customers who express an urgent need.

LD 1910

An Act to Promote Economic Development in Central Maine

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
CAMPBELL

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1910 is being carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

The bill proposes to implement legislation to improve economic development opportunities in central Maine. It proposes to:

1. Issue a \$5,000,000 bond to establish a revolving loan fund to capitalize the Community Industrial Buildings Fund, a fund to assist local development corporations in constructing community industrial buildings in economically deprived rural and urban areas. The fund would be matched with at least \$1,250,000 in private and public contributions;
2. Provide \$1,000,000 in funding to the Business Attraction Marketing Program in the Department of Economic and Community Development;
3. Require that 1% of all funds appropriated for research and development projects in this State be used to attract new businesses to locate in Maine to manufacture the items that are the products of the research and development;
4. Require the State Economic Development Strategy to include provisions for regional components that are consistent with economic development district plans;
5. Implement the recommendations of the Downtown Initiative in the Department of Community and Economic Development focusing on how to revitalize downtown areas in Maine;
6. Require that economic development districts be given a copy of results of any research by the Department of Economic and Community Development into industries and communities that are at risk for loss of jobs and businesses. The districts must use the results to develop a volunteer stakeholder task force to find solutions to any of the problems raised by the research and report back to the Governor and the Legislature with solutions and funding suggestions;
7. Appoint a volunteer stakeholder group to establish a Winter Harbor Development Group. The goal of the group is to explore and suggest alternative uses for the Winter Harbor base such as an international hotel, recreation facility, conference center or retreat;
8. Expand and modify the current local administrative contracting program for road building to provide for the construction of local roads quicker and less expensively;
9. Provide appropriate assistance, such as funding and state regulation application assistance, to expedite the dredging of the Penobscot River for the purpose of improving the navigable channel;
10. Establish an intermodal passenger system for Bangor International Airport by linking a terminal on airport grounds with rail and road access, including access to the state-owned Brewer-to-Calais railroad from the airport and Northern Maine Junction. Airport terminal access by road would be improved through the appropriation of funds and matching federal funds to reroute Maine Avenue;
11. Require the Department of Transportation to develop and implement a strategy to provide, where practical, connections from each state-owned or state-leased rail line to multiple railroad common carriers in order that Maine businesses and the public have affordable and unhampered access to the national rail transportation system;
12. Provide tax-exempt status to the sale or lease of an aircraft based in this State and regularly engaged in air commerce, or the replacement or repair parts for such an aircraft;
13. Eliminate permits for 53-foot truck trailers;
14. Exempt diesel fuel used while on the Maine Turnpike from the diesel fuel tax;

15. Provide to lessees of trucking equipment, such as a truck or trailer, used in interstate commerce the same sales tax exemption that is currently provided to owners of trucking equipment that is used in interstate commerce. Alternatively, a \$600 maximum would be placed on the sales tax imposed on any such equipment;
16. Require the Department of Environmental Protection to change the regulatory process from an instruction-based approach to a contractual, performance-based approach, thereby rewarding companies and businesses that meet or exceed the environmental objectives established by the department; and
17. Attract high-tech and high-wage jobs. This would be partially accomplished through the appropriation of \$300,000 each to Eastern Maine Technical College and Kennebec Valley Technical College to expand technical education programs in industries needing technically skilled workers.

LD 1917 An Act to Encourage Growth and Development in Cumberland County CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GLYNN AMERO	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1917 is being carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

The bill proposes to implement legislation to improve economic development opportunities in Cumberland County. It proposes to:

1. Improve the infrastructure;
2. Enhance existing businesses and encourage job growth by providing a dollar-for-dollar reduction of a business' gross income, for purposes of computing income taxes owed by a business, for funds given by an employer to an employee to pay for that employee to attend an accredited Maine school;
3. Encourage investment in Maine businesses by providing a waiver of the capital gains tax to any person who invests a capital gain within 12 months of the realization of that gain in a business or corporation that is based or headquartered in Maine;
4. Attract and provide high-tech and high-wage jobs by providing an appropriation of \$400,000 per year to the Southern Maine Technical College to create or expand technical education programs in industries needing technically skilled workers. A matching contribution of 25% would be sought from the private sector in the form of cash, equipment, materials or scholarship funds; and
5. Promote a stable economic environment through the review of current rules and regulations and taxes and make any necessary changes.

LD 1919 An Act to Promote Economic Development in Eastern Maine CARRIED OVER

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