

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JULY 2000

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**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](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:

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

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

LD 1919 was carried over from the First Regular Session. It was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208 and proposed to implement legislation to improve eastern Maine. It proposed to:

1. Improve the infrastructure, including the development of a rail line from Brewer to Eastport within 5 years and obtain appropriations to bring U.S. Route 1 from Steuben to Danforth up to national highway standards within 10 years;
2. Enhance existing businesses and encourage job growth by:
  - A. Creating an enterprise zone in Washington County. The enterprise zone would be based upon the former Job Opportunity Zones Act enacted in 1987 and repealed in 1993. The purpose of the enterprise zone is to establish a program of economic development incentives targeted to areas that are economically distressed or adversely affected by sudden or severe dislocation of the economy;
  - B. Creating a free-trade zone in Calais with an extension to Eastport. This would be similar to the current authorization given to the Loring Development Authority of Maine to apply for designation as a free port area by providing an exemption from stock-in-trade tax and other taxes and customs normally levied on personal property in transit; and
  - C. Providing a General Fund appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 annually to fund an economic development specialist position. The specialist would work under the direction of the Department of Economic and Community Development in rural communities in eastern Maine to create economic opportunities by working with local development organizations. The duties of the specialist would include providing grant writing assistance, business consultation and small business development recommendations;
3. Attract high-tech and high-wage jobs. This would be partially accomplished through the appropriation of \$150,000 to Washington County Technical College to expand technical education programs in industries needing technically skilled workers; and
4. Promote a stable economic environment through the review of current rules and regulations and taxes and making any necessary changes.

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

LD 1922 was carried over from the First Regular Session. It was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208 and proposed to establish an Internet policy for the State. The policy would include: