

# 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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**Staff:**

*Susan Johannesman, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
Room 101/107/135, 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**  
**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.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 476 requires the owner of real estate consisting of one to four dwelling units to make certain disclosures to prospective buyers of the property when the transaction is without the assistance of a person licensed to practice real estate brokerage.

**LD 1981**

**An Act to Revise the Accountancy Laws**

**PUBLIC 245**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HARRIMAN		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-126
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LD 1981 proposed to make the following changes to the accountancy laws:

1. It created new defined terms: "defined service" and "substantial equivalency."
2. It made changes in the composition of the Board of Accountancy by permitting, but no longer requiring, that one of the professional members may be a public accountant and by adding a second public member to the board.
3. It revised the education requirements for those eligible to sit for the certified public accountant examination by allowing applicants to sit for the examination up to 120 days prior to completion of their education requirements.
4. It authorized the Board of Accountancy to establish a process for granting licenses to and regulating licensees from other states or countries that have licensing requirements substantially equivalent to those in Maine.
5. It established provisions concerning Maine licensees who offer or render services in other states.
6. It prohibited or restricted the ability of accountants to accept commissions, referral fees and contingency fees when performing a defined service.
7. It made changes to continuing education requirements.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-126)** proposed to delete the changes to the membership of the Board of Accountancy and the accompanying transition provision. This amendment renumbered the sections to read consecutively and added a fiscal note.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 24 made the following changes to the accountancy laws:

1. It creates new defined terms: "defined service" and "substantial equivalency."
2. It revises the education requirements for those eligible to sit for the certified public accountant examination by allowing applicants to sit for the examination up to 120 days prior to completion of their education requirements.
3. It authorizes the Board of Accountancy to establish a process for granting licenses to and regulating licensees from other states or countries that have licensing requirements substantially equivalent to those in Maine.
4. It establishes provisions concerning Maine licensees who offer or render services in other states.
5. It prohibits or restricts the ability of accountants to accept commissions, referral fees and contingency fees when performing a defined service.