MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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

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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, <u>History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents</u>, 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 XXXCh	apter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	House & Senate disagree; bill died
	ccepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
	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 LawChapter # of enacted Public Law
PUBLIC XXX	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX	Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED	Bill held by GovernorLegislature failed to override Governor's Veto
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.

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

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
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

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
KONTOS	OTP-AM	
WATSON		

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;

- 4. Requiring the foundation to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters rather than to the Legislature as a whole;
- 5. Requiring the Governor to call the first meeting of the foundation's directors and to appoint an acting chair;
- 6. Limiting General Funds for the foundation to its first full year of operation; and
- 7. Changing the fiscal year for the seed money appropriation section.

The amendment also added an appropriation.

LD 2176 Resolve, to Require Certain Reports Concerning the Use of Automated Telephone Answering Equipment by State Government

RESOLVE 90 EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report		Amendments Adopted
KIEFFER	OTP-AM	MAJ	S-488
MAYO	OTP-AM	MIN	

LD 2176 proposed to require agencies and departments of State Government to have a live operator answer all incoming telephone calls to the agency or department during business hours, except for emergency hot lines and telephone lines that provide general information.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-488), was the majority report. It proposed to convert the original bill into an emergency resolve that would require the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to make both preliminary and final reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state government matters on the implementation of a new policy on the use of automated telephone answering equipment by state agencies. The amendment also proposed to grant authority to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state government matters to report out a bill during the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-489), which was not adopted, retained the original bill's requirement that agencies and departments of State Government have a live operator answer all incoming calls during business hours, except for emergency hot lines and telephone lines that provide general information. It also proposed to require the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to make both preliminary and final reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state government matters on the implementation of a new policy on the use of automated telephone answering equipment by state agencies. The amendment also proposed to grant authority to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state government matters to report out a bill during the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 90 requires the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to make both preliminary and final reports to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state government matters on the implementation of a new policy on the use of automated telephone answering equipment by state agencies. It also grants authority to the joint standing committee of the