

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:

*Sen. Carol A. Kontos, Chair
Sen. Susan W. Longley
Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon*

*Rep. Gary L. O'Neal, Chair
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Rep. Kevin L. Shorey*

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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 2090

An Act to Require that Employees in 24-Hour Convenience Stores Have Access to Telephones or Alarms

PUBLIC 347

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DUDLEY	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-485
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LD 2090 proposed to prohibit a convenience store from remaining open 24 hours a day unless there is an alarm or telephone in the store accessible to the employees.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-485) proposed to change the title of the bill and add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 347 prohibits a convenience store from remaining open 24 hours a day unless there is an alarm or telephone in the store accessible to the employees.

LD 2105

An Act to Improve the Maine Economy Through Small Businesses

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PINGREE ROWE	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2105 is being carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The bill proposes to establish the Maine Microenterprise Initiative Fund in the Department of Economic and Community Development. The department would give grants from the fund to community-based organizations providing training, technical assistance and loans to microenterprises. Priority consideration would be given to grant applications that are joint or target low-income individuals or areas of high unemployment. The bill proposes to require that grants for loans must be accompanied by a certain level of matching funds and adequate technical assistance. The department would adopt rules, subject to legislative review, to establish grant application procedures and criteria. The bill also proposes to appropriate from the General Fund a nonlapsing \$1,500,000 per year of the biennium to the Maine Microenterprise Initiative Fund.

LD 2112

An Act to Allow Doctors of Dentistry to Prescribe Physical Therapy

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PLOWMAN	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2112 proposed to authorize dentists to prescribe physical therapy as may be necessary for proper dental treatment.

LD 2115

An Act to Promote Economic Development in Western Maine

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOOLEY BENOIT	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2115 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 western Maine. It proposes to:

1. Improve the infrastructure;
2. Enhance existing businesses and encourage job growth;
3. Attract high-tech and high-wage jobs; and
4. Promote a stable economic environment through the review of current rules and regulations and taxes and make any necessary changes.

LD 2130 An Act to Extend the Jurisdiction of the Real Estate Commission ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RUHLIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2130 proposed to amend the Real Estate Brokers License Act by expanding the jurisdiction of the Real Estate Commission to supervise and oversee licensed real estate brokers who also engage in property management, rental or leasing of real estate. The bill also proposed to establish a specific standard of cause for disciplinary action that could be imposed against a real estate broker who misrepresents the uses of property that are permitted by municipal, state or federal law. See also LDs 11, 1083, 1176 and 1450.

**LD 2142 An Act to Change Laws Pertaining to the Loring Development Authority CARRIED OVER
of Maine**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'NEAL		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2142 is being carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The bill proposes to reconfigure the composition of the board of trustees for the Loring Development Authority of Maine so that the City of Caribou, the Town of Caswell and the Town of Limestone each nominate one member to the board; 3 members of the board would be nominated by any other municipality in Aroostook County; and one member would be nominated by the county commissioners of Aroostook County. The bill also proposes to allow the current members of the board of trustees to finish their terms and the reconfigured board to be phased in as the current members' terms expire.

**LD 2155 Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Establish a RESOLVE 89
Comprehensive Internet Policy EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KONTOS TRIPP		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-303 S-462 PINGREE
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LD 2155 proposed to establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Establish a Comprehensive Internet Policy.