

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

JULY 1999

MEMBERS:

Sen. Carol A. Kontos, Chair

Sen. Peggy A. Pendleton

Sen. Richard A. Bennett

Rep. Scott W. Cowger, Chair

Rep. Kathleen A. Stevens

Rep. Paul L. Tessier

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Rep. James H. Tobin, Jr.

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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 930 appropriate funds to the Maine Science and Technology Foundation for the Maine Research Internships for Teachers and Students (MERITS) program. This funding would allow the MERITS program to continue and expand the number of teachers and students able to participate in research internships.

The provisions of this bill were subsequently amended and incorporated into a committee bill (LD 2243, P&S 1999, chapter 33) and into the Part 2 budget (Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part TT).

LD 1528 **An Act to Provide Funds for Applied Research and Development Relevant to the Maine Economy** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ROSEN		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1528 is being carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The bill proposes to establish the Applied Research and Development Fund to be used for applied research and development relevant to the Maine economy. The fund would receive annual General Fund appropriations equivalent to one percent of actual General Fund revenue for the previous year.

The bill also proposes to establish an organization responsible for making awards from the fund. A 12-member governing board would be established to oversee the activities of the organization.

LD 2125 **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Target Industries Committee to Promote Research and Development Activities in Maine** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ROWE LAWRENCE		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2125 proposed to establish the Maine Technology Institute as a private nonprofit corporation with a public purpose. The institute would be governed by a board of seven private sector members, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, the Chancellor of the University of Maine System, the President of the Maine Science and Technology Foundation, the Director of the State Planning Office and one member of the Legislature appointed by the Speaker and the President who would serve as a nonvoting member.

The bill proposed to appropriate \$15,000,000 in each fiscal year of the biennium to the institute and authorize the institute to disburse the money on a competitive basis to private sector organizations involved in the development or production of new technologies. The institute would be required to report annually to the Legislature on its financial operations and on the use of funds by its grantees. The institute would also be prohibited from spending more than 7% of those funds on its own operations.

The general corporate powers and duties of the institute as a nonprofit corporation with a public purpose were modeled after those established in law for the Maine Science and Technology Foundation and include the right to hire staff and establish salaries, to sue and be sued, to enter into contracts, to incur debt and otherwise generally exercise the powers of other corporations as provided under law.

The bill also proposed to dissolve the institute after seven years, on December 31, 2006, and on that date return to the State all property purchased with General Fund appropriations and transfer to the General Fund all unencumbered appropriations.

The provisions of this bill were subsequently amended and incorporated into the Part 2 budget (Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Parts TT and AAA).

See also LD 2243.

LD 2243

An Act to Promote Research and Development Activities in Maine

P&S 33

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> COWGER		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-429
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LD 2243 was a committee bill that proposed to appropriate money for research and development. Part A proposed to appropriate \$1,000,000 per year in the next biennium to the Maine Technical College System for the initial capitalization of new or expanded catalog programs at the technical colleges to serve new and emerging high-technology industries.

Part B proposed to appropriate funds to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund, administered by the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, to support applied research and development and product innovation in target areas within the University of Maine System.

Part C proposed to appropriate a total of \$10,000,000 for the biennium to the Department of Economic and Community Development for research and development grants for the Maine Technology Institute. It also would transfer \$200,000 in each fiscal year of the biennium from the Maine Technology Investment Fund for the Maine Technology Institute.

Part D proposed to increase the borrowing authority of the University of Maine System. It would appropriate funds to fund debt service payment on a university bond issue for capital construction in the University of Maine System to renovate and construct research facilities for use by university researchers and students, research collaborators and private sector partners.

Part E proposed to designate the Raymond H. Fogler Library at the University of Maine as the State Research Library for Business, Science and Technology. It also would appropriate funds to the University of Maine System for the purchase of information resources, equipment and staff support for the State Research Library for Business, Science and Technology.

Part F proposed to appropriate funds to the Governor's Marine Studies Fellowship Program to provide support for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in state-chartered colleges and universities to work with researchers in academic institutions, marine industries and marine industry associations.

Part G proposed to appropriate funds to create and support a Center for Advanced Law and Management at the University of Southern Maine. The center would strengthen the competitive advantage of Maine firms and entrepreneurs by creating a forum to address many of the complex issues that affect technology-based businesses.

Part H proposed to appropriate funds to the Foundation for Blood Research for the ScienceWorks for ME equipment donation program. This funding would support expansion of the program to reach more schools with more equipment.

Part I proposed to appropriate funds to the Maine Science and Technology Foundation for the Maine Research Internships for Teachers and Students (MERITS) program. This funding would allow the MERITS program to continue.

Part J proposed to appropriate funds to support the expansion of the Department of Education's partnership with the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA). Through the partnership, the Department of Education would use NASA materials and technology for professional development, curriculum development and teacher and student internships.