

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

JULY 1999

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Sen. Paul T. Davis*

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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.

House Amendment "C" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-735) proposed to retain the provisions of the bill that would increase the annual allowance for constituent services for Legislators.

House Amendment "D" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-739), which was not adopted, proposed to place the salaries of the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State, the Attorney General and the State Auditor at salary range 91, the same salary range as commissioners. The amendment also would have clarified that the Legislative Council has authority to determine at which step each officer is to be paid.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-375), which was not adopted, proposed to clarify the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government by ensuring the cost-of-living adjustment would begin with the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature. It further proposed to clarify that the cost-of-living adjustment to legislative salary may not exceed 5% annually.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 509 increases legislative pay by 3% in each year of the biennium beginning in the 120th Legislature. In the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature, each legislator will receive \$10,815 in salary. In the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature, each legislator will receive \$7,725 in salary. It also establishes an annual cost-of-living adjustment to legislators' salaries beginning on December 1, 2001. The cost-of-living adjustment will be based on the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for the most recently concluded fiscal year. The law limits the cost of living increase to 5% in any year. Beginning in fiscal year 2000-01, the law increases annual legislative constituent service allowances for Senate members from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and for House members from \$750 to \$1,500.

LD 2176

An Act to Prohibit State Government from Using Automated Telephone Answering Equipment During Business Hours CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
KIEFFER
MAYO

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 2176, which was carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to require that state agencies and departments 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.