

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
NATURAL RESOURCES**

JULY 2000

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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, 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:

- 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
- 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 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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
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House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1174) proposed to change the composition of the Mercury Products Advisory Committee to provide that, when making the appointments, the Speaker and the President shall give preference to members from the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters. It also proposed to provide for the reimbursement of necessary expenses incurred by public members who are not otherwise compensated by their employers.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 779 defines mercury-added products as the following products if they contain mercury added during manufacture: thermostats and thermometers, electrical switches, medical or scientific instruments, electrical devices and lamps. The law requires, beginning January 1, 2002, the labeling of mercury-added products other than mercury-added lamps sold in the State and requires a seller of mercury-added lamps to commercial, industrial or other large users to provide information on the invoice or in a separate document to inform the purchaser that the lamps contain mercury and may not be placed in solid waste destined for disposal.

The law bans the disposal of mercury-added products in a solid waste disposal facility after July 15, 2002 but exempts mercury-added products used in households from that ban until January 1, 2005. The law exempts automobile component parts from the labeling requirement and the source separation requirement until July 15, 2002. The law requires the Department of Environmental Protection to work with dentists to develop a pollution prevention plan for mercury from dental procedures by July 15, 2002.

The law establishes the Mercury Products Advisory Committee to advise the department, the State Planning Office and the Legislature on further actions needed to prevent and reduce environmental releases of mercury from consumer products and requires the committee to report annually beginning January 15, 2002 on the effectiveness and extent of established programs for the collection, transportation and recycling of mercury-added products. The law repeals the Mercury Products Advisory Committee in 2006.

The law establishes requirements for public education and for technical and financial assistance to municipalities. The law also exempts lamps, mercury-containing thermostats, polychlorinated biphenyl ballast and certain batteries from the planning, reporting and fee requirements under the laws relating to toxics use, toxics release and hazardous waste reduction.

LD 2182

An Act to Improve Air Quality through Market Incentives for the Purchase of Cleaner Vehicles

PUBLIC 684

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WATSON PINGREE	OTP-AM	H-1038

LD 2182 proposed to create a Cleaner Car Rebates Program to promote the purchase of new and used low-emission cars and trucks by offering a rebate to the purchaser of a cleaner vehicle.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1038) proposed to replace the bill. This amendment proposed:

1. to create a pilot incentive voucher program designed to encourage the retirement of older, high-emission vehicles and the purchase of newer, low-emission vehicles;
2. to allow the salvage of useable parts of retired vehicles;
3. to provide for the issuance of higher-value vouchers for the retirement of certain pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles that have a higher market value;
4. to tie the retirement of high-emission vehicles to the purchase of low-emission vehicles by providing that a voucher is issued upon retirement of a high-emission vehicle and is redeemable upon purchase of a low-emission vehicle;
5. to direct the Department of Environmental Protection to administer the voucher program and the Finance Authority of Maine to issue payments upon redemption of vouchers;
7. to require the Department of Environmental Protection and the Finance Authority of Maine to provide annual reports on the program and to require the department in its 2003 report to provide an evaluation of whether the pilot program should be continued;
8. to repeal the pilot incentive voucher program on November 1, 2003;
9. to require the Department of Environmental Protection to undertake an examination of methods and strategies for achieving reductions and maintaining levels of mobile-source emissions that will ensure compliance with federal air quality standards and to develop a mobile-source-emission-reduction plan that includes the most effective and cost-efficient methods and strategies;
10. to authorize the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters to report out legislation concerning mobile-source-emission-reduction methods to the First Regular Session and the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature;
11. to provide for use of the Clean Fuel Vehicle Fund, a fund authorized to accept grants from public and private sources, to fund the pilot incentive voucher program; and
12. to add an allocation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 684 creates a pilot incentive voucher program designed to encourage the retirement of older, high-emission vehicles and the purchase of newer, low-emission vehicles; requires the Department of Environmental Protection and the Finance Authority of Maine to provide annual reports on the program and requires the department in its 2003 report to provide an evaluation of whether the pilot program should be continued; repeals the pilot incentive voucher program on November 1, 2003; requires the Department of Environmental Protection to undertake an examination of methods and strategies for achieving reductions and maintaining levels of mobile-source emissions that will ensure compliance with federal air quality standards and to develop a mobile-source-emission-reduction plan that includes the most effective and cost-efficient methods and strategies; authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources matters to report out legislation concerning mobile-source-emission-reduction methods to the First Regular Session and the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.