

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
TAXATION

AUGUST 1999

*Staff:*

*Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst*

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**MEMORANDUM**

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

From: Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst

Date: August, 1999

Re: Bill Summaries, 119th Legislature, 1st Regular Session

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation during the 1st Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The summary describes each bill or order and relevant amendments as well as the final action. Also included is a statistical summary of bill activity by the committee. Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the 1st Regular Session (unless a later date is specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999. Joint orders are effective when passed.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the committee this session. It is organized by bill (LD) number and two indices are located at the back of the document that group bills by subject and by LD number. 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*
- 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*
- READ AND PASSED ..... Joint Order passed by the House and Senate*
- PASSED AS AMENDED ..... Joint Order passed as amended by the House and Senate*

A complete summary of bills for all committees will be available in the very near future. Copies will be on file in the Law and Legislative Reference Library and Senate and House offices. You will also soon be able to access these bill summaries from our website.

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

certain public assistance programs administered by the Department of Human Services. The Bureau of Revenue Services would also be required to conduct an outreach campaign to encourage people to apply for the Maine Residents Property Tax Program and provides for the electronic filing of those applications.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-648)** would replace the bill and proposed that the unspent appropriations for the Maine Residents Property Tax Program would not lapse to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year. The amendment would authorize the Bureau of Revenue Services to spend up to \$300,000 of surplus appropriations for outreach and require the bureau to adopt rules specifying the method for using those funds

**Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-425)** proposed to require the Bureau of Revenue Services to conduct an outreach program within existing resources appropriated for the Maine Residents Property Tax Program.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 39 requires the Bureau of Revenue Services to conduct an outreach program within existing resources appropriated for the Maine Residents Property Tax Program to encourage participation in the program by eligible individuals.

**LD 2184**                      **An Act to Exempt from the Sales Tax Feminine Hygiene Products**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BAKER RUHLIN	ONTP	

LD 2184 proposed a sales tax exemption for feminine hygiene products.

**LD 2207**                      **An Act to Eliminate the Personal Property Tax and Make Other Changes in the Tax Laws**                      **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GAGNON		

LD 2207 is a concept draft that proposed to:

1. Eliminate the personal property tax and reimburse municipalities for 100% of the resulting loss of tax revenue through a revenue-sharing program separate from the state-municipal revenue sharing provided for in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 5681;
2. Eliminate the sales tax exemption for machinery and equipment used in production;
3. Eliminate the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR) program that provides for reimbursement for taxes paid on certain business property; and
4. Impose a 1% tax on ingredients and components used in production.

This bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

**LD 2211**                      **Resolve, to Modify the State Valuation for the Sappi Plant in the City of Westbrook**                      **RESOLVE 54 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
USHER O'GARA	OTP-AM	H-680

LD 2211 proposed to establish the state valuation, for purposes of calculation of county taxes, school appropriations and revenue sharing, for the Sappi Fine Paper North America plant located in the City of Westbrook at \$125,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 and \$95,000,000 for fiscal year 2000.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-680)** proposed to restrict the bills application to the 1999 state valuation and to provide that the modified state valuation applies only in the calculation of state-municipal revenue sharing and not for purposes of county taxes and distribution of state education funding.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1999, chapter 54 established the 1999 state valuation for the City of Westbrook for purposes of calculating municipal revenue sharing based on a valuation of the property of Sappi Fine Paper North America at \$140,000,000. Chapter 54 was enacted as an emergency measure and took effect June 5, 1999. Also see LD 2241, Resolve, chapter 77.

**LD 2216                      An Act to Strengthen the Maine Taxpayer Bill of Rights                      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHICK LIBBY	ONTP    MAJ OTP-AM    MIN	

LD 2216 proposed to ensure that Maine Revenue Services abides by the Taxpayer Bill of Rights, and does not engage in coercive or abusive practices in its dealings with taxpayers. The bill permits a taxpayer to complain about treatment to the director of the appellate division of Maine Revenue Services and, subsequently, to the Superior Court, if necessary. Among the remedies that would be provided for failure to follow the required safeguards in dealing with a taxpayer is reimbursement of costs, including attorney's fees, to the taxpayer.

**LD 2221                      An Act to Restore Majority State Funding of Public Education in Maine                      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN LAWRENCE	REREFER	

LD 2221 proposed to amend the law (which was repealed by Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part X, section X-2) that required that revenue derived from 0.5% of the sales tax be transferred to the Maine Rainy Day Fund for each month following a fiscal year in which General Fund revenue exceeded prior year revenue by 8% or more, on a base-to-base comparison, excluding one-time revenue gains and losses, and that the following October this transfer be replaced with a drop of 0.5% in the rate of the sales tax. Specifically, this bill proposed amending the law to require that:

1. An amount equal to that generated by 0.5% of the sales tax be transferred into the program, general purpose aid for local schools or "GPA," rather than the Maine Rainy Day Fund if GPA provided 51% or less of the State's kindergarten, elementary and secondary school actual operating and program costs and debt service;
2. Any funds provided to GPA pursuant to this bill must be built into GPA's base appropriation for future budget years;