

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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
ONT P..... 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
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

LD 2163**An Act to Require Contractor Registration****ONTP**

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

LD 2163 was carried over from the First Regular Session and proposed to establish in the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation a comprehensive public register of contractors doing business in the State. Under the bill, contractor was defined to mean a person or entity that enters into a construction contract.

LD 2210**An Act to Encourage Expanded Use of Maine's Port Facilities****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BROOKS MILLS	ONTP	

LD 2210 was carried over from the First Regular Session by the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. In the Second Regular Session, the bill was re-referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development. LD 2210 proposed to appropriate \$125,000 from the General Fund for a one-year pilot project that would create incentives to utilize the port of Winterport for maritime shipping.

LD 2217**An Act to Promote Economic Development in Androscoggin County****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MENDROS NUTTING J	ONTP	

LD 2217 was carried over from the First Regular Session. It was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208 and proposed to implement legislation to improve Androscoggin County. It proposed to:

1. Improve the infrastructure. In effecting this goal, the recommendations of the Downtown Initiative in the Department of Economic and Community Development focusing on how to revitalize downtown areas in Maine would be implemented;
2. Enhance existing businesses and encourage job growth. As part of this goal, the manufacture of a prefabricated industrial park, ready to be occupied by businesses, would be encouraged;
3. Attract high-tech and high-wage jobs. This would be partially accomplished through the appropriation of \$300,000 each to Central Maine Technical College and Lewiston-Auburn College;
4. Encourage and promote tourism, convention activities and special events by emphasizing and advertising Androscoggin County as a destination point for these activities. Additionally, the feasibility of a convention center, built to service the State, would be explored and developed; and

5. Promote a stable economic environment through the review of current rules and regulations and taxes and making any necessary changes.

LD 2262

An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Items in Storage Owned by a 3rd Party

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
AMERO	ONTP A	
	RE-REF B	
	OTP-AM C	

LD 2262 proposed to make the following changes to the Maine Self-service Storage Act.

1. It proposed to require a person placing items in storage to specify whether some of the items are owned by another person.
2. It proposed to exempt from the lien currently given to an operator of a self-service storage facility those items that have been identified as belonging to a 3rd party if it can be proven that the items belonged to the 3rd party prior to being placed in storage and during the time the items were in storage. Under the bill, in order to get this exemption, the following requirements would have to be met:
 - A. The occupant would have to specify the name of the 3rd party;
 - B. The 3rd party would have to provide proof of ownership; and
 - C. The 3rd party would have to claim the items within 14 days of notification by the operator or prior to the sale of the items by the operator, whichever occurred later.

If the 3rd party failed to meet these requirements, the operator could treat the items as if they were the property of the occupant of the facility, offering them for sale to satisfy the lien.

3. It proposed to require the operator of a self-service storage facility to provide notice by certified and regular mail to 3rd parties that had been identified as owners of items placed in a storage facility if the occupant of the storage facility defaults on the rental agreement.

Committee Amendment “A” (S-492) was committee report C. It proposed to provide that proof of ownership by a 3rd party would have to be provided to the operator by the occupant or the 3rd party. The amendment also proposed to add a provision that would allow a 3rd party to redeem the 3rd party’s property from a storage unit notwithstanding a section of law that vests the exclusive custody of all property in the occupant. Committee Amendment “A” was not adopted.