

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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

JULY 1999

MEMBERS:

*Sen. Carol A. Kontos, Chair
Sen. Susan W. Longley
Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon*

*Rep. Gary L. O'Neal, Chair
Rep. Rosaire J. Sirois
Rep. Verdi L. Tripp
Rep. Ronald E. Usher
Rep. Brian Bolduc
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Rep. David E. Bowles
Rep. Harold A. Clough
Rep. Stavros J. Mendros
Rep. Kevin L. Shorey*

Staff:

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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.

This amendment proposed to add language that would require the authority to consider the value of contractual labor cost reductions when analyzing the projected financial performance of the project. This amendment also proposed to add unallocated language setting a termination date of February 1, 2001 for the authority's approval of the issuance of bonds and confirming that the bonds contemplated will be limited obligations of the authority, payable only from project revenues. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 484 expands the Finance Authority of Maine's ability to support employee purchases of paper industry assets in the State by allowing FAME to make loans for paper industry job retention projects from up to \$100,000,000 of the proceeds of revenue obligation securities. Paper industry job retention project means the acquisition and improvement of a paper production facility in which not less than 40% of the ownership of the project will be owned or controlled by or for the benefit of a majority of the employees through a qualified Employee Stock Ownership Program or other employee ownership program recognized in the federal Internal Revenue Code. Total state assistance for a project may not exceed \$25,000,000 plus 50% or 70% of the project cost in excess of \$25,000,000. Revenue obligation securities may not be issued for a paper industry job retention project approved by FAME after February 1, 2001.

Chapter 484 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 11, 1999.

LD 2227

An Act to Expand Membership on the Maine Tourism Commission

PUBLIC 445

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BENNETT COWGER	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-371
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LD 2227 proposed to expand the Maine Tourism Commission from 20 to 24 voting members and add a list of seven representatives of various tourism industry interests as specific members that the Governor appoints. The four new members added to the commission under this bill would be appointed with staggered terms.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-371) proposed to add a member representing a statewide organization of children's camps to the list of representatives of various tourism industry interests that the Governor appoints to the Maine Tourism Commission. It also added a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 445 expands the Maine Tourism Commission from 20 to 24 voting members and adds a list of eight representatives of various tourism industry interests as specific members that the Governor appoints. The four new members added to the commission under this bill are appointed with staggered terms.

LD 2233

An Act to License Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing

PUBLIC 399

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KONTOS	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2233 proposed to enact the recommendations of the technical review committee on interpreters established pursuant to Public Law 1997, chapter 749. That committee was charged with determining the method by which the State should regulate interpreters for the deaf and hard-of-hearing. The bill proposed to replace the existing interpreter registration