

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

JULY 1999

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.

Sen. Mary E. Small

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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.

Sponsor(s)Committee ReportAmendments Adopted

LD 2243 was a committee bill of the Joint Select Committee on Research and Development that proposed to appropriate money for research and development. The bill proposed to incorporate the Research and Development Committee recommendations assembled from numerous bill which were jointly referred to the Joint Select Committee on Research and Development (the lead committee) and other legislative committees, including the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. The bill proposed to accomplish the following:

Part A proposed to appropriate \$1,000,000 per year in the next biennium to the Maine Technical College System for the initial capitalization of new or expanded catalog programs at the technical colleges to serve new and emerging high-technology industries.

Part B proposed to appropriate funds to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund, administered by the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, to support applied research and development and product innovation in target areas within the University of Maine System.

Part C proposed to appropriate a total of \$10,000,000 for the biennium to the Department of Economic and Community Development for research and development grants for the Maine Technology Institute. It also would transfer \$200,000 in each fiscal year of the biennium from the Maine Technology Investment Fund for the Maine Technology Institute.

Part D proposed to increase the borrowing authority of the University of Maine System. It would appropriate funds to fund debt service payment on a university bond issue for capital construction in the University of Maine System to renovate and construct research facilities for use by university researchers and students, research collaborators and private sector partners.

Part E proposed to designate the Raymond H. Fogler Library at the University of Maine as the State Research Library for Business, Science and Technology. It also would appropriate funds to the University of Maine System for the purchase of information resources, equipment and staff support for the State Research Library for Business, Science and Technology.

Part F proposed to appropriate funds to the Governor's Marine Studies Fellowship Program to provide support for undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in state-chartered colleges and universities to work with researchers in academic institutions, marine industries and marine industry associations.

Part G proposed to appropriate funds to create and support a Center for Advanced Law and Management at the University of Southern Maine. The center would strengthen the competitive advantage of Maine firms and entrepreneurs by creating a forum to address many of the complex issues that affect technology-based businesses.

Part H proposed to appropriate funds to the Foundation for Blood Research for the ScienceWorks for ME equipment donation program. This funding would support expansion of the program to reach more schools with more equipment.

Part I proposed to appropriate funds to the Maine Science and Technology Foundation for the Maine Research Internships for Teachers and Students (MERITS) program. This funding would allow the MERITS program to continue.

Part J proposed to appropriate funds to support the expansion of the Department of Education's partnership with the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA). Through the partnership, the Department of Education would

use NASA materials and technology for professional development, curriculum development and teacher and student internships.

Part K proposed to establish the Maine Technology Institute as a private nonprofit corporation with a public purpose. The institute would be governed by a board of 9 private sector members appointed by the Governor; the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development; the Chancellor of the University of Maine System; the President of the Maine Science and Technology Foundation, who serves as a nonvoting member; the Director of the State Planning Office, who serves as a nonvoting member; and the Maine Technology Institute Director, who serves as a nonvoting member. The position of Maine Technology Institute Director at the Department of Economic and Community Development would be appointed by the Governor and approved by a majority of the board to serve as president of the institute.

The purpose of the institute would be to encourage, promote, stimulate and support research and development activity leading to the commercialization of new products and services in the State's technology-intensive industrial sectors to create new jobs for Maine people. The institute would disburse funds through grants, direct investments and loans to private companies, targeted technology incubators and nonprofit research laboratories.

The institute would be dissolved on December 31, 2006, and on that date would return to the State all property purchased with General Fund appropriations and transfers to the General Fund all unencumbered appropriations.

Part L would require the submission of a plan for a comprehensive evaluation of state investments in research and development by December 31, 1999 and would require the submission of a comprehensive evaluation every 5 years.

Part M proposed to delete the authority of the Maine Technology Investment Fund to make direct investments in market-oriented technology extension, commercialization and development opportunities and would provide for the transfer of direct investment activities from the Maine Technology Investment Fund to the Maine Technology Institute. It also would change the name of the Maine Technology Investment Fund to the Maine Technology Capacity Fund.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-429) proposed to eliminate several appropriations that were included in the original bill. It also proposed to deappropriate funds from the Maine Science and Technology Foundation to offset funding for the ScienceWorks for ME program, the Maine Research Internships for Teachers and Students program and to expand the Department of Education's partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special 1999, chapter 33 deappropriates funds from the Maine Science and Technology Foundation to offset funding for the Science Works for ME program, the Maine Research Internships for Teachers and Students program and to expand the Department of Education's partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The provisions of the original bill were subsequently amended and incorporated into the Part 2 budget (Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Parts TT, UU, VV, AAA, BBB and CCC). Please also see summaries for other bills jointly referred to the Research and Development Committee (the lead committee) and the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee (LDs 293, 373, 452, 492, 643, 654, 666, 686, 698 and 930).