

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

JULY 2000

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Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait

Sen. Paul T. Davis

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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
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WESTON	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2275 proposed to amend the definition of "work center" to be consistent with the Federal Government and provider direction. It would accomplish this by removing from State statute a requirement that a work center be a rehabilitation facility or part of such a facility and would broaden the definition of work centers to include private sector businesses. LD 2275 not only proposed to continue a requirement that a program provide vocational rehabilitative services to individuals with disabilities, but also proposed to support the current practice of encouraging rehabilitation providers to offer services in a competitive and integrated environment. The bill also proposed to improve the representation on the Work Center Purchases Committee of disabled persons by increasing to 5 the number of persons with disabilities on the committee.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 543 amends the definition of "work center" to be consistent with the Federal Government and provider direction. It accomplishes this by removing from State law a requirement that a work center must be a rehabilitation facility or part of such a facility and by broadening the definition of work center to include private sector businesses. The law not only continues to require that a program provide vocational rehabilitative services to individuals with disabilities, but also supports the current practice of encouraging rehabilitation providers to offer services in a competitive and integrated environment. Public Law 1999, chapter 543 also increases the representation of persons with disabilities on the Work Center Purchases Committee. The number of such persons was increased to a minimum of 5 of the board members.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAGGETT	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2300 proposed to change the definition of "blighted area" from an area with a predominance of buildings needing improvement to an area with a substantial number of buildings that need improvement. This proposed change to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 31-A, chapter 104 would mirror current Federal law.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 540 updates the State's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program guidelines to mirror Federal guidelines. It does this by changing the definition of "blighted area" from an area with a predominance of buildings needing improvement to an area with a substantial number of buildings that need improvement. The change will increase the number of areas in the State that could