

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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

JULY 2000

Staff:
Susan Johannesman, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*

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
Rep. Jean Ginn Marvin
Rep. David E. Bowles
Rep. Harold A. Clough
Rep. Stavros J. Mendros
Rep. Kevin L. Shorey*



Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
 Telephone: (207) 287-1670
 Fax: (207) 287-1275

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:

<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

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

technology, advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture, information technology and precision manufacturing technology. The system would consist of a network of self-managed, state-coordinated centers strategically placed throughout the State and administered under the auspices of the Maine Technology Institute. Each applied technology center would provide to selected tenants shared, low-cost space and business support in order to encourage the establishment and growth of technology-based businesses.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-962) proposed to change the name of the system that would permit early-stage development of technology-based businesses from the Applied Technology Center System to the Applied Technology Development Center System. The amendment also proposed to move the administration of the system from the Maine Technology Institute to the Department of Economic and Community Development and add a representative of the Maine Technology Institute to the Applied Technology Development Center System Coordinating Board. The amendment proposed to set a limit on the amount of state funding each center could have received. The amendment proposed to authorize the Department of Economic and Community Development to adopt routine technical rules and proposed to appropriate funds to the Target Technology Center at Orono. Finally, the amendment proposed to decrease the appropriation of funds to the Applied Technology Development Center System and clarified that applicants for these funds would not have to be new centers to be eligible for funding.

The provisions of the committee amendment were incorporated into the Part II Budget, Public Law 1999, chapter 731, part UUU.

LD 2535

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Ownership Patterns in Maine

RESOLVE 136

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROWE PINGREE	OTP-AM	H-1184 O'NEAL H-932

LD 2535 proposed to:

1. Establish an employee ownership feasibility fund to be administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development. The fund would be available as grants to employees of businesses in the State to be used to analyze the potential for employee ownership;
2. Direct the Department of Economic and Community Development to contract with a community development corporation to conduct an education and outreach program for Maine businesses on employee ownership options; and
3. Establish a commission to study ownership patterns in the State.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-932) proposed to:

1. Change the bill to a resolve;
2. Delete the establishment of an employee ownership feasibility fund and delete the establishment of an education and outreach program for Maine businesses on employee ownership options;

3. Add to the duties of the Commission to Study Ownership Patterns in Maine the duty to study the feasibility of an employee ownership feasibility program and fund and the duty to make recommendations for an education and outreach program for Maine businesses on employee ownership options;
4. Change the membership of the commission and change the due date of the commission's final report to November 15, 2000; and
5. Add a fiscal note.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1184) proposed to change the date by which the first meeting of the Commission to Study Ownership Patterns in Maine would be called.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 136 establishes the Commission to Study Ownership Patterns in Maine. The commission is directed to investigate the current patterns of in-state, out-of-state and international ownership of Maine businesses and to study the feasibility of an employee ownership feasibility program. The Commission will be staffed by the State Planning Office.

LD 2557

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Establish a Comprehensive Internet Policy

PUBLIC 762

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-1050 COLWELL S-632
-------------------	-----------------------------------	--

LD 2557 proposed to implement recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Establish a Comprehensive Internet Policy. It proposed to require state departments and agencies to implement procedures for accepting payment by major credit cards or other electronic means. It proposed to enact the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act and the Maine Digital Signature Act. Finally, it proposed to authorize the Blue Ribbon Commission to Establish a Comprehensive Internet Policy to meet to conclude its work following the conclusion of the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-632) proposed to make the following changes to the proposed Maine Digital Signature Act:

1. It proposed to define "state agency"; and
2. It proposed to provide that information filed electronically with a state agency that uses a digital signature would have the same force and effect as a paper document filed with a manual signature.

The amendment also proposed to put an effective date of July 1, 2001 on the required acceptance of credit cards by state agencies and directed the Bureau of Revenue Services and the Department of Professional