

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
- 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
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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>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	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

and Financial Regulation to submit reports on the budgetary impact of their acceptance of credit cards. Finally, it proposed to add an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

House Amendment "A" (H-1050) was presented on behalf of the Committee on Engrossed Bills to correct a provision to accurately reflect changes to existing law.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 762 implements the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Establish a Comprehensive Internet Policy. It directs the Bureau of Revenue Services and the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to submit, by January 20, 2001, reports on the budgetary impact of their acceptance of credit cards. It requires state departments and agencies to implement procedures for accepting payment by major credit cards or other electronic means by July 1, 2001. It enacts the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act and the Maine Digital Signature Act. It also authorizes 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.

LD 2558

An Act to Improve the Regulation of Occupations and Professions

PUBLIC 687

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM MAJ	S-593
	ONTP MIN	

LD 2558 proposed to enact the recommendations of the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development, pursuant to the report required by Public Law 1999, chapter 16, Part L.

It proposed to revise the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, the State Government Evaluation Act, to remove board-by-board sunset review by the committee of jurisdiction. Individual boards would be reviewed as part of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Office of Licensing and Registration.

It proposed to amend Title 5 to standardize the per diem compensation rate for board members of boards within the department and two boards affiliated with the department at \$35 dollars per day. Under the bill, Title 5 would be amended to limit new professional and occupational regulatory boards to a maximum of 9 members, including 2 public members.

It proposed to allow for the sharing of confidential information with the affiliated boards; increase the administrative authorities of the Office of Licensing and Registration, including the power to set fees below a cap and the elimination of separate board accounts; and allow for license recognition between states. The bill also proposed to transfer existing law from Title 32 to Title 10, consolidating all department general authorities into one location.

It proposed to amend individual board statutes. Under the bill, Title 10 would have been amended to remove a requirement that all Manufactured Housing Board licensees receive personal notice of all meetings and hearings and copies of rules. Title 32 would have been amended to allow the Board of Boilers and Pressure Vessels to extend an inspection certificate beyond 14 months. The number of board members on the Board for Licensure of Architects, Landscape Architects and Interior Designers; the