

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**JULY 2000**

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***MEMBERS:***

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Sen. John M. Nutting  
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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](http://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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LD 2587

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources Relating to the Review of the Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning Under the State Government Evaluation Act**

PUBLIC 585

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2587 proposed to implement the recommendations made by the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources as a result of the committee's review of the Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning under the State Government Evaluation Act. This bill proposed to:

1. Extend the termination date of the commission from June 30, 2000 to June 30, 2006 and subject the commission to its next State Government Evaluation Act review beginning in 2005; and
2. Require the commission to issue a report in 2002 with recommendations for altering the funding formula in the event the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company plant in Wiscasset no longer generates low-level radioactive waste.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 585 implements the recommendations made by the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources as a result of the committee's review of the Advisory Commission on Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning under the State Government Evaluation Act. The law extends the termination date of the commission from June 30, 2000 to June 30, 2006, subjects the commission to its next State Government Evaluation Act review beginning in 2005, and requires the commission to issue a report in 2002 with recommendations for altering the funding formula in the event the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Company plant in Wiscasset no longer generates low-level radioactive waste.

**LD 2597**

**An Act to Improve Public Water Supply Protection**

PUBLIC 761

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-1106
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LD 2597 proposed to implement the recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Improvement of Public Water Supply Protection, established pursuant to Resolve 1999, chapter 80. The bill proposed to strengthen notice requirements for projects that could threaten water supplies and to require a municipality to give a water supplier notice if a project is proposed near its groundwater wells or surface water intakes.

The bill proposed to move the Maine Drinking Water Program from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Environmental Protection and to require the Department of Environmental Protection to hire a consultant to help integrate the program into its overall structure. The bill proposed to allow the Department of Environmental Protection to deny, based on the presence of existing threats, an application to establish a new public water supply. The bill also proposed to require the Land and Water Resources

Council to develop an education strategy for public water supply protection aimed at municipalities and the general public.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-1106)** proposed to strengthen the authority of the drinking water program to deny an application for a new water supply in the vicinity of potential sources of contamination that already exist.

The amendment proposed, instead of moving the drinking water program effective July 1, 2001, to require the Department of Human Services and the Department of Environmental Protection to jointly hire a consultant to review the drinking water and plumbing control programs and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various agencies to house the programs. The consultant would be required to submit a report outlining the findings of the review to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources and human services matters by February 1, 2001.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 761 strengthens notice requirements for projects that could threaten water supplies and requires a municipality to give written notice to a water supplier if certain projects are proposed near its groundwater wells or surface water intakes. It also strengthens the authority of the drinking water program within the Department of Human Services to deny an application for a new water supply in the vicinity of existing potential sources of contamination. The law requires the Land and Water Resources Council to develop an education strategy for public water supply protection aimed at municipalities and the general public.

The law requires the Department of Human Services and the Department of Environmental Protection to jointly hire a consultant to review the drinking water and plumbing control programs and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various agencies to house the programs. The consultant shall submit a report outlining the findings of the review to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural resources and human services matters by February 1, 2001.

**LD 2600**

**An Act to Implement the Land Use Recommendations of the Task Force on State Office Building Location, Other State Growth-related Capital Investments and Patterns of Development**

**PUBLIC 776**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM MAJ	S-660
	ONTP MIN	S-792 MICHAUD

LD 2600 proposed to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on State Office Building Location, Other State Growth-related Capital Investments and Patterns of Development that relate to land use policy. The bill proposed to address issues related to downtowns by establishing and capitalizing the Downtown Leasehold Improvement Fund; by establishing the Maine Downtown Center within the Department of Economic and Community Development to encourage downtown revitalization in Maine communities; by authorizing the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to make loans to municipalities from the Municipal Investment Trust Fund for downtown improvements and appropriating \$5,000,000 for downtown improvement loans; and by requiring the Department of Economic and Community Development to develop an investment policy related to downtowns.