

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
120TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

AUGUST 2001

Staff:

J. Timothy Leet, Senior Legislative Analyst

**Office of Fiscal and Program Review
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MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: J. Timothy Leet, Senior Analyst

Date: August 8, 2001

Re: Bill Summaries, 120th Legislature, 1st Regular Session

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs during the 1st Regular Session of the 120th Legislature. The summary describes each bill and relevant amendments as well as the final action. Also included is a statistical summary of bill activity by the committee. Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the 1st Regular Session (unless a later date is specified in a particular law) is September 21, 2001. Joint orders are effective when passed.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the committee this session. It is organized by bill (LD) number and two indices are located at the back of the document that group bills by subject and by LD number. 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 the 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
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

A complete summary of bills for all committees will be available in the very near future. Copies will be on file in the Law and Legislative Reference Library and Senate and House offices.

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Best wishes for an enjoyable interim.

LD 29

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force to Reduce the Burden of Home Heating Costs on Low-income Households

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

H-48

LD 29 proposed to implement the recommendations of the Task Force to Reduce the Burden of Home Heating Costs on Low-income Households established in the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature by Resolve 1999, chapter 132. The bill proposed to:

1. Establish a summer "fill" program to provide low-income households that are eligible for fuel assistance through the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) with an initial supply of fuel;
2. Require the Maine State Housing Authority to identify the most effective way to provide adequate funding of the anticipated 25% nonfederal share of the weatherization program;
3. Establish a program funded by a bond issue to allow low-income and middle-income citizens to obtain low-interest loans or grants for energy conservation improvements;
4. Require the Maine State Housing Authority and the State Planning Office to investigate the possibility of establishing a separate Office of Energy Conservation within the Maine State Housing Authority;
5. Require the Maine State Housing Authority to annually for 3 years investigate the possibility of increasing the percentage of LIHEAP funds for weatherization services;
6. Require the Public Utilities Commission to monitor the effects of interruptible gas services on the supply and price of home heating oil; and
7. Require the State Planning Office to conduct a study to determine whether the State of Maine can reduce its per capita residential energy consumption by 25% by 2011.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-48) proposed to authorize the Maine Rainy Day Fund to be used to provide a working capital advance to the Fuel Assistance Reserve Fund in the event a General Fund unappropriated surplus is not available for that purpose. It also proposed to require the Maine State Housing Authority to study fixed-price fuel oil contracts for fuel assistance recipients and to require the Maine State Housing Authority and Finance Authority of Maine to fund a program that provides low-interest loans or grants to moderate-income Maine citizens through the issuance of private activity bonds. The amendment also proposed to reduce the amount of general obligation bonds proposed to be issued to fund low-interest loans or grants for energy conservation for low-income citizens from \$8,000,000 to \$5,000,000. It proposed to amend the wording of a proposed referendum question to be submitted to the voters of Maine to reflect the lowered bond issue amount. It also proposed to eliminate from the original bill a proposal to establish an Office of Energy Conservation within the Maine State Housing Authority. Finally, the amendment proposed to delete a requirement that the Public Utilities Commission monitor the effects of interruptible gas services on the supply and price of home heating oil in Maine and to change various reporting deadlines for reports to the 120th Legislature.

Although many of the provisions of LD 29, as amended, were incorporated into the Part 2 budget (LD 855, Public Law 2001, chapter 439, Part GG), the bill was nevertheless carried over to the Second Regular Session for additional consideration by the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.