

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
120th Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Appropriations And Financial Affairs*

May 2002

Members:

*Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait, Chair
Sen. Mary R. Cathcart
Sen. S. Peter Mills*

*Rep. Randall L. Berry, Chair
Rep. Richard H. Mailhot
Rep. Paul L. Tessier
Rep. Joseph C. Brannigan
Rep. David M. Etnier
Rep. Sharon Libby Jones
Rep. Richard A. Nass
Rep. Tom J. Winsor
Rep. Irvin G. Belanger
Rep. Richard W. Rosen*

Staff:

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Maine State Legislature
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120th Legislature
Second Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 2002

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is arranged alphabetically by committee name 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
PASSED	Joint Order passed in both bodies
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 July 25, 2002.

Patrick T. Norton, Interim Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

LD 29

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

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report
ONTP

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 do the following:

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.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

This bill was a carry over from the 1st Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.

LD 42

An Act to Fund the Endowment Incentive Fund

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BAKER	ONTP MAJ	H-782
CATHCART	OTP-AM MIN	H-891 MCKEE

LD 42 proposed an appropriation of \$14,000,000 to the Endowment Incentive Fund.

Committee Amendment “B” (H-782) was the minority report. It proposed to reduce the amount of the General Fund appropriation for the Endowment Incentive Fund from \$14,000,000 to \$100,000. It also proposed to add a fiscal note.

House Amendment “B” to Committee Amendment “B” (H-891) proposed to remove the emergency preamble and emergency clause and delay the funding provided to the Endowment Incentive Fund from fiscal year 2001-02 to fiscal year 2002-03.

This bill was a carry over from the 1st Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.

LD 79

An Act to Reinstate Tax Deductibility of Qualified Long-term Care Insurance

PUBLIC 679

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KANE	OTP-AM	H-811
GAGNON		

LD 79 proposed to change tax deductions and credits for long-term care insurance to require that policies be certified by the Superintendent of Insurance.

Committee Amendment “B” (H-811) proposed to provide an income tax deduction for persons purchasing long-term care insurance certified by the Superintendent of Insurance and tax credits for employers who provide that insurance for their employees.

This bill was a carry over from the 1st Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary:

Public Law 2001, chapter 679 expands tax deductions and credits for long-term care insurance to include policies certified by the Superintendent of Insurance.