

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
120th Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
State and Local Government*

August 2001

Members:

*Sen. Peggy A. Pendleton, Chair
Sen. Edward M. Youngblood
Sen. Margaret Rotundo*

*Rep. Martha A. Bagley, Chair
Rep. John F. McDonough
Rep. Paul R. Hatch
Rep. Paul J. Lessard
Rep. Janet L. McLaughlin
Rep. Susan Kasprzak
Rep. Eleanor M. Murphy
Rep. Peter D. Chase
Rep. Anita P. Haskell
Rep. Philip Cressey, Jr.*

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Maine State Legislature
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120th Legislature
First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
August 2001

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 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:

CARRIED OVER..... *Bill Carried Over to 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*

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is **September 21, 2001**.

David E. Boulter, Director
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

LD 529

An Act to Create the Office of Ombudsman

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> STANLEY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 529 proposed to establish the Office of Ombudsman to oversee and hear complaints regarding the actions of administrative agencies of the State. This Act would have taken effect January 1, 2003.

LD 548

An Act to Repeal the Requirement that the Kennebec County Budget be Approved by the Legislature

PUBLIC 170

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> FULLER		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-176
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LD 548 proposed to repeal the requirement that the budget for Kennebec County be submitted to the Legislature for approval. In place of final approval by the Legislature, this bill proposed to require that the Kennebec County Advisory Budget Committee submit a final budget to the county commissioners who could change the budget only by the unanimous vote of the county commissioners. In turn, the changes made by the county commissioners could be overridden by a 2/3 vote of the advisory budget committee.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-176), which was the majority report, proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to delete references to "advisory" from the laws governing the Kennebec County Budget Committee. It also proposed to eliminate legislative approval for the county budget and to empower the budget committee to submit a final budget to the county commissioners, who could change the budget only by the unanimous vote of the county commissioners. Any changes made by the county commissioners could be overridden by a 2/3 vote of the budget committee. The amendment also proposed to make several technical changes to the laws governing the Kennebec County Budget Committee.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 170 deletes references to "advisory" from the laws governing the Kennebec County Budget Committee. The law also repeals the requirement that the county budget receive legislative approval and empowers the budget committee to submit a final budget to the county commissioners, who may change the budget only by the unanimous vote of the county commissioners. The law also provides that any changes made by the county commissioners may be overridden by a 2/3 vote of the budget committee. PL 2001, chapter 170 also make several technical changes to the laws governing the Kennebec County Budget Committee.