

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:

J. Timothy Leet, Senior Legislative Analyst

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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:

<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PASSED</i>	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

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 874

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Make Recommendations to the Legislature to Provide More Stable Financial Support for the Casco Bay Island Transit District

RESOLVE 72

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DUDLEY ABROMSON	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-762
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LD 874 proposed to appropriate funds to increase the General Fund operating subsidy for the Casco Bay Island Transit District by \$125,000 in fiscal year 2001-02 and \$175,000 in fiscal year 2002-03.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-762) proposed to replace the bill with a resolve. The resolve would require the Commissioner of Transportation to report the Department of Transportation's recommendations regarding the adequacy of the state operating subsidy for the Casco Bay Island Transit District to the Legislature by January 1, 2003. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

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

Enacted Law Summary:

Resolve 2001, chapter 72 requires the Commissioner of Transportation to report the Department of Transportation's recommendations regarding the adequacy of the state operating subsidy for the Casco Bay Island Transit District to the Legislature by January 1, 2003.

LD 915

An Act to Amend the Maine Insurance Guaranty Association Act

PUBLIC 478

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ABROMSON MAYO	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-402
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LD 915 proposed to make the following changes to the Maine Insurance Guaranty Association Act:

1. Exempt additional types of insurance from being subject to the Act;
2. Exclude first-party claims by an insured whose net worth exceeds \$10,000,000;
3. Amend the definition of "insolvent insurer" to clarify that it applies to that group of insurers defined as "member insurers," and amends the definition to mean a member insurer against whom a final order of liquidation has been entered;
4. Enact a definition of "person" to mean any individual or legal entity, including a governmental entity;
5. Set a \$10,000 cap on a claim for the return of an unearned premium;