

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
120th Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Business and Economic Development*

*August 2001*

**Members:**

*Sen. Kevin Shorey, Chair*

*Sen. Lynn Bromley*

*Sen. Ed Youngblood*

*Rep. John Richardson, Chair*

*Rep. Bruce S. Bryant*

*Rep. Susan Dorr*

*Rep. Paul R. Hatch*

*Rep. Marc Michaud*

*Rep. Jonathan Thomas*

*Rep. Harold A. Clough*

*Rep. Thomas W. Murphy, Jr.*

*Rep. Brian M. Duprey*

*Rep. John R. Morrison*

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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](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:

*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 Business and Economic Development

of funding necessary for the program. It also authorizes the authority to adopt routine technical rules to implement the program. The law establishes the sources of funds for the program as funds collected by an electric utility as determined by the commission pursuant to section 3214 of Title 35-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, all funds appropriated by the State for the fund, all interest and dividends from the investment of money in the fund, and any other money deposited in the fund to implement the program. The law also allows MSHA to use the fund to cover administrative and operational expenses related to the program subject to the approval of the commission.

Public Law 2001, chapter 257 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 25, 2001.

**LD 942**                      **An Act to Prohibit the Solicitation of Prearranged Funeral Services**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> POVICH		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 942 proposed to strengthen the law prohibiting solicitation of prearranged funerals and funeral business by strictly defining "solicitation."

**LD 947**                      **An Act Concerning Fair Debit Card Practices**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> USHER O'GARA		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 947 proposed to authorize public post-secondary institutions located in this State to sponsor debit card programs for their students. The bill also proposed to enable students to use their school-sponsored debit cards at local businesses outside the campus.

**LD 951**                      **An Act Relating to Rent-to-own Purchases**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRANNIGAN BROMLEY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 951 proposed to help ensure that consumers who enter into rent-to-own contracts and who eventually purchase the item are charged a price that is based on the actual fair market value of the item.