

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

*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.*

**Staff:**

*Christopher J. Spruce, Legislative Analyst  
David C. Elliott, Principal Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
13 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207) 287-1670*



**Maine State Legislature**  
**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013  
Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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 State and Local Government

**LD 1038**                      **Resolve, Requiring the Maine Municipal Association, the Maine County Commissioners Association and the Office of the Governor to Establish a Permanent Statewide Intergovernmental Advisory Commission**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MORRISON	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
-------------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------------------

LD 1038 proposed to require the Maine Municipal Association, the Maine County Commissioners Association and the Office of the Governor to establish a permanent statewide intergovernmental advisory commission. The establishment of such a commission was one of the recommendations included in the November 1997 report by the Task Force on Intergovernmental Structure entitled, "Proposal to Reduce the Cost of Government Through Reform of Governmental Relations." Among other duties, the commission would identify ways to reduce duplication of services and to promote communications and cooperation among the 3 levels of government.

**LD 1054**                      **An Act to Ensure Independent Decision Making in Appeals of Denials of Abatement of Property Taxes**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KILKELLY DUNLAP	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP      MAJ OTP-AM    MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
---	---	---------------------------

LD 1054 proposed to provide taxpayers access to an independent decision maker when appealing the denial of a property tax abatement request. The bill proposed to accomplish this by eliminating the ability of a municipality to adopt a board of assessment review appointed by the selectmen when the selectmen also serve as assessors for the municipality. The bill would have permitted cases that are pending on October 1, 2001 to be completed by the board of assessment review and have provided for the termination of the board of assessment review when those pending cases were completed. Under the bill, appeals of requests for abatement in municipalities without a board of assessment review would be filed with the county commissioners.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-132)**, which was the minority report and which was not adopted, proposed to add a mandate preamble and a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 1083**                      **An Act to Authorize State Agencies to Arrange for Direct Billing of Hotel Rooms for State Business**                      **PUBLIC 120**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PENDLETON MCDONOUGH	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP      MAJ ONTP    MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
---	--	---------------------------