

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 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>
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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>
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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>
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Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

LD 1083 proposed to allow a state agency to use a purchase order to procure lodging and to permit a hotel, motel or other establishment that provides lodging to bill a state agency directly in connection with a state employee who travels on state business.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 120 provides that a hotel, motel or other lodging establishment may directly bill a state agency for services provided to a state employee traveling on state business. A state agency may use a purchase order to procure lodging.

LD 1116 **An Act to Honor Maine's French Heritage** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MICHAEL		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1116 proposed to establish both English and French as the official state languages.

LD 1118 **An Act to Enact the Paperwork Reduction Act** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MCKENNEY TURNER		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1118 proposed to establish the Maine Paperwork Reduction Act. The bill proposed to require that similar or identical information and data required to be reported periodically to state agencies or departments by businesses operating in the State be reported to a single agency, the agency of record. The bill proposed that the agency or department of State Government that historically was the first to require a business operating in this State to report information or data during a reporting period established by law or rule be identified as the agency of record. The bill also proposed that requests for additional information by a state agency be made through the agency of record and that a business disclose the identity of the agency of record to any state agency requesting that information.

This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 120th and the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government established a subcommittee to work with the sponsor and interested parties to develop an amended version of the bill during the interim.

LD 1131 **An Act to Allow Municipalities to Advertise Legal Notices in Weekly Newspapers** **ONTP**

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