

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

Staff:

Christopher J. Spruce, Legislative Analyst

Curtis C. Bentley, Legislative 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).

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

LD 1674 proposed to require a licensing authority under the jurisdiction of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to grant a hardship waiver for a professional who fails to meet continuing education requirements due to a death or serious illness in the person's family.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-325) proposed to allow a licensing authority under the jurisdiction of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to grant hardship deferments for continuing education requirements.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 285 allows a licensing authority under the jurisdiction of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to grant hardship deferments for continuing education requirements.

LD 1677

An Act to Enhance Tourism Promotion and Increase State Revenues

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COWGER	OTP-AM MAJ	
GAGNON	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1677 proposed to establish the Tourism Marketing Promotion Fund that would be funded by a transfer of 5% of the tax revenue collected from sales tax imposed on meals and lodging. The proposed transfer would not affect the amount transferred for state-municipal revenue sharing. Under the bill, the Maine Tourism Commission must approve the annual budget of the fund, which, beginning in fiscal year 2002-03, would fund the entire budget of the Office of Tourism program. The bill also proposed to equalize the tax on all prepared food or meals at the 7% tax that is currently assessed on meals sold in establishments that are licensed for on-premises consumption of liquor pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 28-A, chapter 43. Currently, meals sold at establishments not licensed for the on-premises consumption of liquor are taxed at 5%.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-557), which was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development and was not adopted, proposed to dedicate 7.75% of the 7% tax on meals and lodging to generate approximately the same amount of revenue for tourism promotion as the original bill. The amendment also proposed to strike from the bill a proposed increase from 5% to 7% on meals sold at establishments not licensed for on-premises consumption of liquor. It also proposed to strike from the original bill the role of oversight of the Tourism Marketing Promotion Fund by the Maine Tourism Commission.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-558), which was the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development and was not adopted, proposed to strike from the original bill the role of oversight of the Tourism Marketing Promotion Fund by the Maine Tourism Commission.

The Tourism Marketing Promotion Fund was established, along with a dedicated revenue funding mechanism, in the Part 2 budget (LD 855, Public Law 2001, chapter 439, Part UUUU).