

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
120TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TAXATION**

AUGUST 2001

Staff:

Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst

**Office of Fiscal and Program Review
5 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0005
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MEMBERS:

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Sen. Kenneth F. Lemont
Sen. Richard Kneeland**

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Rep. Bernard E. McGowan
Rep. Janet L. McLaughlin
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Rep. David E. Bowles**



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MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
From: Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst
Date: August 22, 2001
Re: Bill Summaries, 120th Legislature, 1st Regular Session

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation during the 1st Regular Session of the 120th Legislature. The summary describes each bill or order and relevant amendments as well as the final action. Also included is a statistical summary of bill activity by the committee. Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the 1st Regular Session (unless a later date is specified in a particular law) is September 21, 2001. Joint orders are effective when passed.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the committee this session. It is organized by bill (LD) number and two indices are located at the back of the document that group bills by subject and by LD number. 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 the 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*

A complete summary of bills for all committees will be available in the very near future. Copies will be on file in the Law and Legislative Reference Library and Senate and House offices.

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Best wishes for an enjoyable interim.

LD 1822

An Act to Amend the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program

PUBLIC 392

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1822 proposed to require business equipment tax reimbursement, BETR, for property owned by a lessor to be distributed to a lessee if the lessee has reimbursed the lessor for those taxes. The bill also proposed to eliminate BETR reimbursement with respect to facilities that have permanently ceased operations and have not publicly advertised that the facility is for sale or lease and to require the Bureau of Revenue Services within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to develop and distribute information describing the availability of the BETR program.

Enacted Law Summary:

Public Law 2001, chapter 392 requires business equipment tax reimbursement, BETR, for property owned by a lessor to be distributed to a lessee if the lessee has reimbursed the lessor for those taxes. Chapter 392 also eliminates BETR reimbursement with respect to facilities that have permanently ceased operations and have not publicly advertised that the facility is for sale or lease and requires the Bureau of Revenue Services within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to develop and distribute information describing the availability of the BETR program.