

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
120th Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
State and Local Government*

May 2002

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Maine State Legislature
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120th Legislature
Second Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 2002

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 arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PASSED</i>	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 25, 2002.

Patrick T. Norton, Interim Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

by the moderator in open town meeting, by the clerk, by a notary or by any other person authorized by law to administer an oath before assuming the duties of office. The tax assessor and the tax collector for the Town of Wells were appointed on April 18, 2000. Subsequent to their appointment, the town failed to swear these municipal officials in a timely manner, placing the tax commitment in jeopardy of challenge.

Resolve 2001, chapter 70 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective January 15, 2002.

LD 1856 **An Act to Amend the Definition of "Governmental Unit" as It Relates to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank Act** **PUBLIC 484**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHERMAN FERGUSON	OTP	

LD 1856 proposed to amend the Maine Municipal Bond Bank Act by amending the definition of "governmental unit" to include a municipally owned corporation as an eligible borrower for electric, water and sewer projects. Specifically, the proposed change to the bond bank law would make the Houlton Water Company, a municipally-owned corporation, eligible to fund its infrastructure projects through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 484 amends the Maine Municipal Bond Bank Act by amending the definition of "governmental unit" to include a municipally owned corporation as an eligible borrower for electric, water and sewer projects.

LD 1860 **An Act to Dissolve the Ministerial Accounts in the Town of Readfield's Trust Fund** **P & S 69**

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

LD 1860 proposed to authorize the municipal officers of the Town of Readfield to dissolve the ministerial accounts in the town's trust fund and to use the money in these accounts for the purchase and installation of a Readfield veterans' memorial monument. This proposed use of the funds was approved by the voters of the Town of Readfield at the annual town meeting in June 2001. The town was required to seek legislative approval of the use of the funds because current state law does not authorize the use of ministerial funds for purchasing and installing a veterans memorial monument.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 2001, chapter 69 authorizes the municipal officers of the Town of Readfield to dissolve the ministerial accounts in the town's trust fund and to use the money in these accounts for the purchase and installation of a Readfield veterans' memorial monument. The use of the funds for this purpose was approved by the voters of the Town of Readfield at the annual town meeting in June 2001.