

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
120th Legislature*

*Second Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Natural Resources*

*May 2002*

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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](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:

<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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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**  
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## Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources

**LD 1898**

### **An Act to Mitigate the Effect of Large Mandatory Environmental Penalties**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1898, a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposed to mitigate the effect of large mandatory environmental penalties by retroactively limiting the penalties that could be imposed, establishing a new process for the determination of penalties and imposing mandatory penalties only when there was an immediate threat to the public health, safety and welfare.

**LD 1921**

### **An Act to Prevent Mercury Emissions when Recycling and Disposing of Motor Vehicles**

**PUBLIC 656**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN COWGER	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	S-476 S-535 MARTIN

LD 1921 proposed to provide for the safe removal and recycling of certain mercury-added products that are components in motor vehicles. Under the bill, automobile manufacturers bear primary responsibility for establishing and maintaining a statewide system to collect and consolidate the components for recycling. Used motor vehicle dealers and persons engaged in recycling motor vehicles share responsibility for removing the components and storing them for recycling. The Department of Environmental Protection was proposed to be responsible for providing technical assistance and conducting public education activities to maximize the effectiveness of the collection system.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-476)** is the majority report of the committee. It proposed to require automobile manufacturers to establish a statewide system to collect, consolidate and recycle the mercury switches removed from motor vehicles with the goal of collecting and recycling at least 90 pounds of mercury per year from mercury switches removed from motor vehicles. Under this amendment, persons who handle motor vehicles at the end of the vehicle's use are responsible for removing mercury switches and headlamps before the vehicles are crushed for recycling. The program allows for the voluntary removal of switches from a vehicle still in use by persons trained by the Department of Environmental Protection. Persons who bring mercury switches to a consolidation facility are entitled to receive \$1 for each switch, funded by the automobile manufacturers. The Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for providing training on universal waste rules as necessary to ensure the safe removal and proper handling of mercury switches, to design and distribute stickers required to be affixed to a motor vehicle if the switches are removed from a vehicle still in use and to provide public education materials.

The amendment proposed to allow the Board of Environmental Protection to revise universal waste rules as necessary to establish standards for handling mercury switches as universal waste and requires the Department of Environmental Protection to report to the Legislature's Mercury Products Advisory Committee on the program, beginning on January 1, 2005.