

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

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 L. 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
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:

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
PASSED	Joint Order passed in both bodies
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 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

constituent services for January of each session. The law allows a Legislator to obtain the first payment in December of the first year of the biennium upon request to the Executive Director of the Legislative Council. The executive director is required to notify Legislators of the payment choice available to them and of the tax consequences of exercising the choice.

LD 1942

An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief in Cumberland County

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCLAUGHLIN	ONTP MAJ	
YOUNGBLOOD	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1942 proposed to restore the 10% limit in Cumberland County on the amount of unencumbered surplus funds county commissioners could use annually for purposes other than reducing the county property tax levy. Public Law 2001, chapter 349, enacted last year, increased the amount, from 10% to 20% for all counties.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-849), which was not adopted, proposed to cap the limit at 15% of unencumbered surplus funds that county commissioners could use annually for purposes other than reducing the county property tax levy in Cumberland County.

LD 1943

An Act to Clarify Municipal Reapportionment Authority

PUBLIC 537

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SCHNEIDER	OTP-AM	H-850

LD 1943 proposed to amend the law governing reapportionment of municipal voting districts following completion of each decennial census. Current law requires a municipality to enact a reapportionment ordinance within 18 months of the official release of census data. This bill proposes that when an ordinance is not adopted at least 90 days before a regular election held within that 18-month period, the old apportionment ordinance is used for that election. The bill also proposes that if a municipality fails to adopt a reapportionment ordinance within the 18-month period or if it does so but not more than 90 days before an election occurring after 18 months, municipal officers up for election are elected and serve at large until a new ordinance is adopted.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-850) proposed to allow municipalities to utilize state House of Representatives and Senate districts in enacting a municipal reapportionment ordinance. Under the amendment, municipalities would have up to 12 months after reapportionment of House and Senate districts to reapportion municipal districts.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 537 amends the law governing reapportionment of municipal voting districts following completion of each decennial census. Under chapter 537, municipalities have up to 12 months following reapportionment of House and Senate districts to reapportion municipal districts thereby allowing municipalities to utilize state legislative district lines in reapportioning their voting districts. The law clarifies that when an ordinance is not adopted at least 90 days before a regular election held within that 12-month period, the old apportionment ordinance is used for that election. The law also clarifies that if a municipality fails to adopt a reapportionment ordinance within the 12-month period or if it does so but not more than 90 days before an election