

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
120th Legislature*

*Second Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Business and Economic Development*

*May 2002*

**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*

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**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**  
**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**  
**Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building**

## Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development

3. That redemption centers be authorized to refuse to accept empty containers whose labels are not registered;
4. That a license from the department be required to initiate deposits, operate a redemption center or act as a 3rd-party collection agent under the law;
5. That the department be authorized to establish by rule fees for licensing and registration and that the fees be based on the department's costs in implementing the law; and
6. That the department provide education on the requirements of the law as part of its licensing and inspection responsibilities.

The bill also proposed to establish a dedicated fund to pay the costs of administration and enforcement of the law by the department. The fund would consist of licensing and registration fees charged by the department. Finally, the bill proposed to reestablish the Committee to Study Reimbursement Rates for Maine's Bottle Redemption Businesses and Other Issues Related to the Handling and Collection of Returnable Containers to examine ways to improve the efficiency of the law through redesign of the bottle redemption system, establishment of cooperative agreements, introduction of technological improvements or other methods. It also proposed to add 2 additional members to the committee.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-539)**, which was adopted, proposed to make the following changes to the bill: it proposed to limit the committee to 4 meetings; to make provision for reimbursement of public members; to change the reporting date from December 1, 2002 to November 6, 2002; and to strike the General Fund appropriation.

### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 2001, chapter 661 implements the recommendations of the Committee to Study Reimbursement Rates for Maine's Bottle Redemption Businesses and Other Issues Related to the Handling and Collection of Returnable Containers created pursuant to Joint Order 2001, H.P. 1389. Among other things, the law requires the label of each type of beverage subject to the returnable container deposit law to be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, requires the department to maintain a register of current beverage container labels and to make that information available to redemption centers. The law also requires a license from the department to initiate deposits, operate a redemption center or act as a 3rd-party collection agent under the law. It also establishes a dedicated fund to pay the costs of administration and enforcement of the law by the department with the fund consisting of licensing and registration fees charged by the department. Finally, the law reestablishes the Committee to Study Reimbursement Rates for Maine's Bottle Redemption Businesses and Other Issues Related to the Handling and Collection of Returnable Containers to examine ways to improve the efficiency of the law through redesign of the bottle redemption system, establishment of cooperative agreements, introduction of technological improvements or other methods. It also adds 2 additional members to the committee.

**LD 2189**

**An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$15,000,000 for the Construction of a Civic Center and Auditorium in Eastern Maine** **DIED IN CONCURRENCE**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP      MAJ ONTP     MIN	S-489

## Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development

LD 2189 was a majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development reported out pursuant to Joint Order 2001, HP 1610, and proposed to create a bond issue in the amount of \$15,000,000 that would be used for the construction of a new auditorium and civic center in eastern central Maine.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-489)** adds a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 2190**                      **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of**                      **INDEF PP**  
**\$25,400,000 for Economic Development**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP      MAJ	S-490   SHOREY

LD 2190 was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development reported out pursuant to Joint Order 2001, HP 1610, and proposed that the funds provided by this bond issue in the amount of \$25,400,000 would be used for the following purposes:

1. The sum of \$5,000,000 to encourage economic investment by businesses by providing low-interest loans to develop and redevelop commercial facilities;
2. The sum of \$5,000,000 to promote job creation by providing loans of up to \$200,000 to Maine businesses that do not have sufficient access to credit but demonstrate the ability to survive, preserve and create jobs and repay obligations;
3. The sum of \$5,000,000 to recapitalize a revolving loan fund that provides funding to regional economic development agencies to relend for the purpose of creating and retaining jobs locally;
4. The sum of \$400,000 to leverage \$4,000,000 in federal funding to redevelop the naval base in Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro into an education and research center; and
5. The sum of \$10,000,000 for the construction of 2 facilities for product development and support that will provide the University of Maine and the University of Southern Maine with the resources needed to help solve daily manufacturing and engineering problems for Maine companies.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-490)** proposed to strike language that would limit the amount of loans to \$200,000, refine the description of one of the permitted allocations and correct the amount of bond proceeds designated to be expended on the construction of a facility to support Maine businesses through product development and testing. This amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 2191**                      **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount**                      **DIED ON**  
**of \$29,400,000 for Economic Development**                      **ADJOURNMENT**

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