

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Appropriations And Financial Affairs*

July 2003

Members:

*Sen. Mary R. Cathcart, Chair
Sen. Margaret R. Rotundo
Sen. Karl W. Turner*

*Rep. Joseph C. Brannigan, Chair
Rep. Richard H. Mailhot
Rep. Scott W. Cowger
Rep. Benjamin F. Dudley
Rep. Sean Faircloth
Rep. Hannah Pingree
Rep. Richard W. Rosen
Rep. S. Peter Mills
Rep. H. Sawin Millett, Jr.
Rep. Julie Ann O'Brien*

Staff:

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Maine State Legislature



Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i>	<i>Bills carried over to the 2nd Regular Session</i>
<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>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 that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

David C. Elliott, Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

<u>PART</u>	<u>SECTION</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
EE	EE-1	Transfers \$7,271,841 from the unallocated surplus of the Highway Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund, on or before June 30, 2003, as reimbursement for funds provided for highway improvement projects.
FF	FF-1	Transfers \$500,000 from the Operating Capital of the General Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund no later than June 30, 2003.
GG	GG1: GG-3	Amends the law to include in the definition of Residential Treatment Facility the Aroostook Residential Center, Elizabeth Levinson Center and Freeport Towne Square, which are state-operated facilities within the Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services. It also makes appropriation and allocation adjustments related to extending the Residential Treatment Facilities assessment to state-operated facilities. It also establishes an application date and retroactive provision.

Public Law 2003, chapter 2 was enacted as an emergency measure and took effect February 13, 2003.

LD 503

An Act To Stimulate Economic Recovery and Growth

ONTP

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

LD 503 was a concept draft that proposed to stimulate economic recovery in Maine in the following ways.

1. Budget matters. Budget matters would be affected by:
 - A. Eliminating all proposed new spending from the budget enacted during the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature;
 - B. Reducing by 50% all new proposed spending from the budget enacted by the First Special Session of the 120th Legislature;
 - C. Continuing a hiring freeze on state employment except for emergency positions;
 - D. Offering an early retirement plan to state employees;
 - E. Reducing the staff and budget of the Executive Department, State Planning Office by 50%; and
 - F. Cutting the budget of the Department of Human Services by 25%.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

2. Economic growth. Economic growth would be motivated by:
 - A. Expanding the budgets of economic growth and development programs by 15%;
 - B. Expanding job retraining and education programs by 33%;
 - C. Creating new programs to train minorities, immigrants and senior citizens;
 - D. Using state assets such as land and buildings as collateral for low-interest loans to be used to entice manufacturers to Maine;
 - E. Eliminating the business equipment property tax;
 - F. Reducing the tax burden on businesses for one year by 20%; and
 - G. Offering revenue sharing to all businesses based on the percentage of sales reported during the prior year.
3. Economic stimulus. Businesses in Maine would be assisted by:
 - A. Offering low-interest loans to businesses to upgrade old technology, expand current practices and purchase improved technology;
 - B. Offering certain businesses grants for hiring of immigrants, Native Americans, displaced workers, welfare recipients, single parents and rehabilitated ex-convicts; and
 - C. Replacing the current licensing system for businesses with a business certificate system.
4. Tax relief. Tax relief would be obtained by:
 - A. Repealing the levy of income tax on the first \$100,000 of income; thereafter, the tax would be imposed at a rate of 5%. Bonuses would be exempt from income tax;
 - B. Reducing the sales and use tax to 3%;
 - C. Imposing the sales tax on all services;
 - D. Imposing the sales tax on all nonfood items; and
 - E. Eliminating all excise taxes.