

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
State and Local Government*

July 2003

Members:

Sen. Margaret Rotundo, Chair

Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III

Sen. Carolyn M. Gilman

Rep. Janet L. McLaughlin, Chair

Rep. George H. Bunker, Jr.

Rep. Christopher R. Barstow

Rep. Susanne P. Ketterer

Rep. Edward J. Suslovic

Rep. Anita Peavey-Haskell

Rep. Robert H. Crosthwaite

Rep. Stephen Bowen

Rep. Oscar C. Stone

Rep. Gary E. Sukeforth

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 State and Local Government

LD 568, which was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposed to establish a study to conduct and evaluate the short-term and long-term impact of a statewide system for electronic filing of deeds, considering factors such as immediate costs to the State and to communities, and the long-term costs or savings.

LD 606

An Act To Improve State Accounting Procedures

**PUBLIC 83
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DOUGLASS FISCHER	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-27

LD 606 proposed to require the Department of Audit to:

1. Beginning July 31, 2003, report annually to the Legislature the amount of cash on hand at the end of each fiscal year for each department of State Government;
2. Account for federal grants at the end of each fiscal year to the Legislature and explain the reimbursement of state officers for any items paid out of the General Fund;
3. Revise and update on a regular basis the accounting manual maintained by the Department of Audit;
4. Provide training to appropriate personnel across department lines to establish systemwide uniform financial practices;
5. Require all audits performed by the Department of Audit over \$1,000,000 to be performed by a certified public accountant; and
6. Establish an audit practice review board of volunteers from the private sector to give advice to the State on best practices and accounting updates.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-27), which was the majority report of the committee, proposed to replace the original bill. The amendment proposed to require the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services and the State Controller to develop a financial management and accounting practices manual for state agencies, develop and implement a training program for state agencies on uniform financial management and accounting practices and report to the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government by January 1, 2004 on the progress of these initiatives.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 83 requires the Commissioner of Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the State Controller to develop a financial management and accounting practices manual for state agencies, develop and implement a training program for state agencies on uniform financial management and accounting practices and report to the state and local government committee by January 1, 2004 on the progress of these initiatives.

Public Law 2003, chapter 83 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 25, 2003.