

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
121st Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Taxation*

*July 2003*

*Members:*

*Sen. Stephen S. Stanley, Chair  
Sen. Ethan Strimling  
Sen. Richard A. Nass*

*Rep. David G. Lemoine, Chair  
Rep. Joseph C. Perry  
Rep. Bernard E. McGowan  
Rep. Deborah L. Simpson  
Rep. Arthur L. Lerman  
Rep. Edward J. Suslovic  
Rep. Harold A. Clough  
Rep. Jonathan T. E. Courtney  
Rep. Earle L. McCormick  
Rep. Joshua A. Tardy*

*Staff:*

*Julie S. Jones, Legislative Analyst*

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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](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>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i> .....	<i>Bills carried over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 &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>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 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

**LD 872**

**Resolve, To Require That the State Conduct a New Valuation of Private Properties in the Unorganized Territories of Aroostook County**

**ONTP**

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

LD 872 proposed to require the State Tax Assessor to conduct a valuation of taxable property within the unorganized territories of Aroostook County.

**LD 874**

**An Act To Connect the BETR Program with Job Retention**

**ONTP**

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

LD 874 proposed to amend the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement program to require a person who benefits under the program to return a portion of the benefits received if the person terminates or lays off a portion of that person's workforce for a period longer than 3 months. The percentage of the refund is based on the number of employment positions terminated or suspended. If the person were required to refund a portion of the reimbursement, that person could not participate in the BETR program for 2 years.

**LD 911**

**An Act To Exempt All Casual Sales from Taxation**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SNOWE-MELLO	ONTP	

LD 911 proposed to extend the sales tax exemption for casual sales to all such sales.

**LD 914**

**An Act To Provide Certain Veterans an Excise Tax Deduction in Lieu of the Homestead Exemption**

**ONTP**

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

LD 914 proposed to provide veterans of the United States Armed Forces a vehicle excise tax exemption up to the amount of the homestead property tax exemption if the veteran was not eligible for a homestead property tax exemption.