

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

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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

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Office of Inspector General to investigate governmental abuse of funds, written policy and procedures and violation of the law within the various state departments. The executive advocacy department would oversee the operations and personnel of the Office of the Inspector General.

LD 965 **Resolve, to Create a Task Force to Implement the 1991 Report of the President's and Speaker's Blue Ribbon Commission on Children and Families** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'BRIEN J		

LD 965 proposes to create the Task Force to Implement the 1991 Report of the President's and Speaker's Blue Ribbon Commission on Children and Families. The task force's membership would consist of the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate and the House and Senate majority and minority leaders. The resolve proposes to require the task force to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters by November 3, 2003.

LD 972 **An Act To Provide a Preference for State Residents in the Awarding of Government Contracts** **ONTP**

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

LD 972 proposed to provide that certain governmental entities, in the awarding of contracts for services, give preference to workers and to bidders for such contracts who are residents of this State, provided the bids submitted by such resident bidders are equally favorable with bids submitted by nonresident bidders. The bill also proposed to provide that these entities, when they award a contract for services that is not subject to competitive bidding shall consider awarding that contract to a person who is a resident of this State and shall award that contract to such a person if the contract with such a person is equally favorable with a contract with persons not located in the State.

LD 984 **An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Registers of Deeds** **PUBLIC 55**

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

LD 984 proposed to set uniform standards for registers of deeds with regard to the documents submitted to registries for recording. The bill also proposed to clarify the recording methods that may be used by registries.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 55 sets uniform standards for registers of deeds with regard to the documents submitted to registries for recording. Specifically, it:

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1. Changes the requirement that public records can only be kept on paper;
2. Allows registries to make computer notes to the index when necessary;
3. Ensures that computer image copies have the same legal effect as paper copies;
4. Allows registries to charge \$2.00 to create an additional page to provide room for including recording information;
5. Expands language that requires recording only on linen cloth to include digital imaging;
6. Increases the fee for each name indexed after the fourth from 25 cents to \$1, which is more in-line with the costs of indexing; and
7. Allows registers to charge an \$8 fee to compensate them for the time required when marginal notations are required in multiple records.

LD 1012

**RESOLUTION, Proposing Amendments to the Constitution of
Maine To Require the Appointment of County Sheriffs, Judges and
Registers of Probate**

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
BULL

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1012 proposed to allow for the appointment of judges of probate, registers of probate and sheriffs by the county commissioners of their respective counties.