

# 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](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

## *Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government*

sell goods or services immediately in the case of an emergency. This provision in law only applies when a state agency sells new or additional goods or services as of January 15, 2004.

**LD 1289**

**An Act Concerning County Treasurers**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1289 proposed to allow the county commissioners to decide to replace the elected county treasurer position with an appointed county treasurer. Under current law, the position of elected county treasurer may be abolished with the approval of the voters and replaced with an appointed county treasurer.

**LD 1290**

**An Act To Provide Requirements for Towns To Deorganize**

**PUBLIC 297**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KNEELAND	OTP-AM	S-121

LD 1290 proposed to provide a set of requirements that a municipality must meet in order to be eligible to deorganize. The bill also proposed to expand voter eligibility on final approval of the deorganization to all registered voters of the county in which the municipality is located.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-121)** proposed to clarify that all debt incurred by a municipality prior to deorganization will be the responsibility of the residents of the community and not the entire population of the unorganized territory. The amendment proposed to direct the deorganizing community to conduct a fiscal impact analysis. The amendment also proposed to authorize the county commissioners in the county where the municipality considering deorganization is located to hold an advisory referendum on the deorganization. Finally, the amendment proposed to require a municipality that has rejected the deorganization to wait 3 years before reinitiating the process.

### ***Enacted Law Summary***

Public Law 2003, chapter 297 clarifies that all debt incurred by a municipality prior to deorganization is the responsibility of the residents of the community and not the entire population of the unorganized territory. It directs the deorganizing community to conduct a fiscal impact analysis. It also authorizes the county commissioners in the county where the municipality considering deorganization is located to hold an advisory referendum on the deorganization. Finally, it requires a municipality that has rejected the deorganization to wait 3 years before reinitiating the process.