

# 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](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 APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

**LD 1292**

**An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$20,000,000 for Capital Projects and Major Maintenance at State and Municipal Parks and Historic Sites, for Acquiring Land for Coastal and Inland Waterway Access and for Capitalizing a Revolving Loan Fund for Land Trusts and Municipalities To Acquire Land and Conservation Easements for Public Access** **CARRIED OVER**

|   |                         |                           |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u><br>DAGGETT<br>COLWELL | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|

LD 1292 proposes to authorize a General Fund bond issue in the amount of \$20,000,000 to be used to make capital improvements and conduct major maintenance at state parks and historic sites, to acquire land for coastal and inland waterway access and to capitalize a revolving loan fund for land trusts and municipalities to acquire land and conservation easements for public access.

**LD 1307**

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Create the Maine Economic Stabilization and Endowment Fund** **ONTP**

|                               |                                 |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u><br>WOODBURY | <u>Committee Report</u><br>ONTP | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|

LD 1307 proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to authorize the Legislature to create a budget stabilization and endowment fund. This fund would be established in lieu of the unprotected Maine Rainy Day Fund as a constitutionally protected asset of the State with explicit fund contribution requirements and distribution limitations.

The purposes of an economic stabilization and endowment fund would be to serve as a permanent endowment fund of the State with an asset base that grows over time and provides supporting distributions for programs and initiatives of State Government in perpetuity; as an economic stabilization fund that provides supplementary distributions to the State during budget years of economic stagnation and recession; and as an emergency liquidity fund that provides short-term distributions to the State when revenues fall unexpectedly short of budgeted projections.

The fund would be built up through monthly transfers of 2% of the General Fund revenue in any year in which the fund balance did not exceed the amount of revenue collected in the immediately preceding fiscal year and by a transfer of 1/2 of any General Fund surplus revenue.

Annually, 4% of the fund assets would be transferred to the General Fund to be appropriated by the Legislature as part of its normal budget-making process. The fund would also proposed to provide budget stabilization distributions. The proposed amendment would allow for a supplemental transfer of up to 2% of fund assets during fiscal years when budgeted economic growth is at least 1% below long-term economic growth trends or up to 4% of fund assets when budgeted economic growth is greater than 2% below long-term economic growth trends. In any fiscal year that actual