

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
121st Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Judiciary*

*July 2003*

**Members:**

*Sen. Peggy A. Pendleton, Chair*

*Sen. Mary R. Cathcart*

*Sen. Chandler E. Woodcock*

*Rep. William S. Norbert, Chair*

*Rep. Thomas D. Bull*

*Rep. Deborah L. Simpson*

*Rep. Stan Gerzofsky*

*Rep. Philip R. Bennett, Jr.*

*Rep. Janet T. Mills*

*Rep. Roger L. Sherman*

*Rep. Roderick W. Carr*

*Rep. Brian M. Duprey*

*Rep. Joan Bryant-Deschenes*

*Rep. Donna M. Loring*

**Staff:**

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*13 State House Station*

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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 Judiciary*

**LD 1311**

**An Act To Clarify the Filing of Municipal Personal Property Tax Liens**

**PUBLIC 355**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> NORBERT PENDLETON	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-415
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LD 1311 proposed to amend the provisions of law that govern the creation, perfection and effect of tax liens on personal property.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-415)** proposed to revise the bill to ensure that filings of personal property tax lien notices will be accepted for filing by the office of the Secretary of State even though these notices will not fully comply with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 11 (the Uniform Commercial Code), Article 9-A. The amendment also proposed to clarify that the filing municipality would have no obligations to secured creditors and lienholders from whom it has not received notice or who have not filed a financing statement in Maine. The amendment further proposed to clarify that all rights of filing municipalities would be governed by Maine law, even where Title 11, Article 9-A might otherwise apply the law of other states. The amendment proposed to reorganize the bill to clarify the dates of the filings to which it is applicable. Finally, the amendment proposed to make the bill, as amended, take effect October 1, 2003.

***Enacted Law Summary***

Public Law 2003, chapter 355 amends the provisions of law that govern the creation, perfection and effect of tax liens on personal property. It ensures that filings of personal property tax lien notices will be accepted for filing by the office of the Secretary of State even though these notices will not fully comply with the requirements of Article 9-A of the Uniform Commercial Code. It also clarifies that the filing municipality will have no obligations to secured creditors and lienholders from whom it has not received notice or who have not filed a financing statement in Maine. It further clarifies that all rights of filing municipalities will be governed by Maine law, even where Title 11, Article 9-A might otherwise apply the law of other states. Chapter 355 takes effect October 1, 2003.

**LD 1335**

**An Act To Protect Public School Departments, School Committees and Superintendents from Certain Suits and Claims**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SNOWE-MELLO	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1335 proposed to require the Attorney General to provide legal defense without cost to a school administrative unit, school board, school committee or superintendent named in a legal action, or named in a claim not covered by liability insurance, arising from the issue of payment of tuition to a parochial school.