

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Business, Research and Economic Development*

July 2003

Members:

Sen. Lynn Bromley, Chair

Sen. Christopher G. L. Hall

Sen. Kevin L. Shorey

Rep. Nancy B. Sullivan, Chair

Rep. Lillian LaFontaine O'Brien

Rep. Guy J. Duprey, Jr.

Rep. Edward Pellon

Rep. Nancy E. Smith

Rep. Susan M. Austin

Rep. Robert A. Berube

Rep. Lawrence E. Jacobsen

Rep. Christopher Rector

Rep. William T. Rogers, Jr.

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).

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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individuals or entities may be issued in Maine in 2003 and a maximum of \$228,580,000 in tax-exempt bonds benefiting private individuals or entities may be issued in Maine in 2004. This bill proposed to allocate the state ceiling among the state-level issuers of tax-exempt bonds as follows: to the Treasurer of State, \$20,000,000 in 2003 and \$0 in 2004; to the Finance Authority of Maine, \$60,000,000 in 2003 and \$30,000,000 in 2004; to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, \$10,000,000 in 2003 and \$10,000,000 in 2004; to the Maine Educational Loan Authority, \$0 in 2003 and \$0 in 2004; and to the Maine State Housing Authority, \$40,000,000 in 2003 and \$40,000,000 in 2004. The bill proposed to leave \$98,580,000 of the state ceiling unallocated in 2003 and \$148,580,000 unallocated in 2004.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-73) incorporated a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2003, chapter 17 establishes the allocations of the state ceiling on issuance of tax-exempt bonds for calendar years 2003 and 2004. Under federal law, a maximum of \$228,580,000 in tax-exempt bonds benefiting private individuals or entities may be issued in Maine in 2003 and a maximum of \$228,580,000 in tax-exempt bonds benefiting private individuals or entities may be issued in Maine in 2004. This law allocates the state ceiling among the state-level issuers of tax-exempt bonds as follows: to the Treasurer of State, \$20,000,000 in 2003 and \$0 in 2004; to the Finance Authority of Maine, \$60,000,000 in 2003 and \$30,000,000 in 2004; to the Maine Municipal Bond Bank, \$10,000,000 in 2003 and \$10,000,000 in 2004; to the Maine Educational Loan Authority, \$0 in 2003 and \$0 in 2004; and to the Maine State Housing Authority, \$40,000,000 in 2003 and \$40,000,000 in 2004. The law leaves \$98,580,000 of the state ceiling unallocated in 2003 and \$148,580,000 unallocated in 2004.

Private and Special Law 2003, chapter 17 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 15, 2003.

LD 1345

An Act To Make Minor Technical Changes to the Maine Biomedical Research Program and To Amend the Calculation of Funds To Be Transferred to the Maine Research and Development Evaluation Fund

**PUBLIC 464
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHOREY RICHARDSON J	OTP-AM	H-579 SULLIVAN S-158

LD 1345 proposed to remove the rule-making authority of the Department of Economic and Community Development from the Maine Biomedical Research Program because the department no longer manages the program.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-158) proposed to restore the rule-making authority concerning the Maine Biomedical Research Program that was repealed by the bill but transfer that authority from the Department of Economic and Community Development to the Maine Biomedical Research Board and to designate rules adopted pursuant to that authority as routine technical rather than major substantive.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-579) proposed to add general obligation bonds issued for research and development to the calculation of funds to be transferred to the Maine Research and Development Evaluation Fund that is administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development

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for the purposes of funding the comprehensive evaluation of state investments in research and development. This amendment also proposed to require that private entities receiving general obligation bond proceeds for research and development pay to the Treasurer of State an amount not to exceed 0.8% of the general obligation bond proceeds, which must be paid from available resources in the fiscal year in which the general obligation bond was issued rather than bond proceeds. The amendment also proposed to add an emergency preamble and emergency clause.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-269), which was not adopted, was identical to House Amendment "A," except that House Amendment "A" clarified that payment of funds to the Maine Research and Development Fund would not come from general obligation bond proceeds.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 464 transfers the rule-making authority concerning the Maine Biomedical Research Program from the Department of Economic and Community Development to the Maine Biomedical Research Board and designates rules adopted pursuant to that authority as routine technical rather than major substantive. The law also adds general obligation bonds issued for research and development to the calculation of funds to be transferred to the Maine Research and Development Evaluation Fund that is administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development for the purposes of funding the comprehensive evaluation of state investments in research and development. In addition, the law requires that private entities receiving general obligation bond proceeds for research and development pay to the Treasurer of State an amount not to exceed 0.8% of the general obligation bond proceeds, which must be paid from available resources in the fiscal year in which the general obligation bond was issued.

Public Law 2003, chapter 464 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 17, 2003.

LD 1351 An Act Regarding the Labeling of Returnable Containers ONTP

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

LD 1351 proposed to ensure that the type size of refund information on refundable beverage containers is at least 1/8 inch high so that it can be read by the consumer. The bill would have taken effect 270 days after adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 121st Legislature.

LD 1385 An Act To Establish the Pine Tree Development Zones Program DIED ON ADJOURNMENT

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BROMLEY SULLIVAN	OTP-AM	S-231 GAGNON S-68

LD 1385 proposed to establish the Pine Tree Development Zone program within the Department of Economic and Community Development and to authorize qualified businesses in the manufacturing, technology and financial