

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

*Bill Summaries
Joint Standing Committee
on
Natural Resources*

July 2003

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Sen. Betheda G. Edmonds
Sen. W. Tom Sawyer, Jr.*

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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:

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| <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

Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 312 amends the State's junkyard statutes in several ways for the purpose of improving the ability of municipalities to appropriately license junkyards, automobile recycling businesses and automobile graveyards.

It changes the standard that defines an automobile graveyard from 3 or more "unserviceable" motor vehicles to 3 or more uninspected or unregistered motor vehicles and provides exemptions from regulation for automobile hobbyists, and certain other areas used for storage.

It also establishes basic operational standards for all junkyards, automobile graveyards and automobile recycling businesses to provide minimal environmental protection. It creates a 100-foot setback from bodies of water for the placement of junked automobiles that contain fluids and increases from 100 feet to 300 feet the setback of newly licensed facilities from public or private drinking water supplies.

It also establishes a process to notify abutters of the public hearing held prior to the issuance of any new junkyard's, automobile graveyard's or automobile recycling business's first license and incorporates into statute fencing and screening standards previously located in the Department of Transportation regulations.

It also clarifies the ability of municipalities to enforce the provisions of the State's junkyard law and effect the abatement of junkyard nuisances. It specifies that a municipality has 3 available methods to recover the costs of prosecuting a junkyard violation: a civil action, a lien on the real estate or a special tax assessment as municipalities are currently authorized to recover the costs of abating a failed septic system.

It also specifies that, beginning in 2004, permits issued to automobile graveyards or junkyards are valid until October of the following year.

It also limits the ban on new permits for automobile graveyards or junkyards to areas that are located within 300 feet of a public building, public park, public playground, public bathing beach, school, church or cemetery.

LD 1403

An Act To Amend a Requirement Concerning Dioxin

PUBLIC 165

Sponsor(s)
DAIGLE

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-169

LD 1403 proposed to change the date by which a bleach kraft pulp mill that fails to meet fish-tissue sampling-result requirements for dioxin must demonstrate that its waste discharge is not the source of elevated dioxin in fish or be subject to potential enforcement action by the Department of Environmental Protection and proposed that the demonstration be made annually thereafter.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-169) proposed to change the date, from May 1, 2003 to February 16, 2004, by which the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Human Services must submit a comprehensive assessment on the progress in eliminating the discharge of dioxin from bleach kraft pulp mills in the State. The amendment also proposed to delete the annual requirement for the commissioners to submit progress reports.

Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 165 changes the date, from December 31, 2003 to December 31, 2004, by which a bleach kraft pulp mill that fails to meet fish-tissue sampling-result requirements for dioxin must demonstrate that its waste discharge is not the source of elevated dioxin in fish or be subject to potential enforcement action by the Department of Environmental Protection and requires that the demonstration be made annually thereafter. It also changes the date, from May 1, 2003 to February 16, 2004, by which the Commissioner of Environmental Protection and the Commissioner of Human Services must submit a comprehensive assessment on the progress in eliminating the discharge of dioxin from bleach kraft pulp mills in the State. It also deletes the requirement for the commissioners to submit annual progress reports.

LD 1472 **An Act To Protect Maine's Water as a Natural Resource** **ONTP**

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| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> DUPLESSIE MARTIN | <u>Committee Report</u> ONTP | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|

LD 1472 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposed to enact a law to establish a procedure to provide the State with severance fees on water that is extracted from the State. The proposed law would be similar to laws in other states whereby a state that has oil and minerals extracted from its natural resources base receives severance fees.

LD 1485 **Resolve, To Update Water Quality Criteria** **RESOLVE 39**

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| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> MARTIN KOFFMAN | <u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-107 |
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LD 1485 proposed to establish requirements related to measurement of dissolved oxygen within riverine impoundments. It proposed to:

1. Amend the bacteria criteria for Class B waters;
2. Amend the dissolved oxygen standard and bacteria standard for Class C waters;
3. Require the Department of Environmental Protection to recommend any needed changes to the dissolved oxygen standard for estuarine and marine waters to the Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources by January 1, 2004 and authorize the committee to report out related legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-107) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Environmental Protection to review and to recommend any needed changes to the bacteria criteria for Class B waters, the bacteria criteria and dissolved oxygen standard for Class C waters and the dissolved oxygen standard for estuarine and marine waters. The amendment also proposed to authorize the Joint Standing Committee