

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

*Second Regular Session and
Second Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Legal and Veterans' Affairs*

May 2004

Staff:

*Danielle D. Fox, Legislative Analyst
Lucia Nixon, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670*

Members:

*Sen. Kenneth T. Gagnon, Chair
Sen. Kenneth F. Lemont
Sen. Arthur F. Mayo III*

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Maine State Legislature



*Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis
Office Of Fiscal And Program Review*

*121st Maine Legislature
Second Regular Session and
Second Special 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/billsumm.htm).

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:

CON RES XXX.....	Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES.....	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE.....	One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT.....	Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT	Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY	Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP.....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP-ND	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PASSED.....	Joint Order passed in both bodies
PUBLIC XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX.....	Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED.....	Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is April 30, 2004; and non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Special Session is July 30, 2004. Four bills (LD's 1572, 1629, 1636 and 1637) that were considered at the First Special Session in August 2003 are also included in these summaries.

David C. Elliott, Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

LD 1690

An Act To Authorize the STARBASE Program

PUBLIC 590

Sponsor(s) DOUGLASS	Committee Report OTP-AM	Amendments Adopted S-423
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LD 1690 proposed to authorize the establishment of a STARBASE program in this State. STARBASE is a science, mathematics and technology academic enrichment program funded by the federal Department of Defense.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-423) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to retain the provision of the bill that establishes the STARBASE program. The amendment proposed to remove the provision of the bill that authorizes the Adjutant General to contract with public and private entities to operate the program. The amendment proposed to retain and clarify the provision of the bill that authorizes the Adjutant General to hire a director and other employees to operate the program. The amendment proposed to remove the retroactivity clause from the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 590 authorizes the establishment of a STARBASE program in this State. STARBASE is a science, mathematics and technology academic enrichment program funded by the federal Department of Defense. The law authorizes the Adjutant General to hire a director and other employees to operate the program.

LD 1699

An Act To Establish the Maine Military Family Relief Fund

INDEF PP

Sponsor(s) GAGNON LANDRY	Committee Report OTP-AM	Amendments Adopted S-438
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LD 1699 proposed to establish the Maine Military Family Relief Fund through a voluntary income tax check off to provide grants to families of members of the Maine National Guard or Reserves of the Armed Forces of the United States who have been called to duty. The bill proposed to authorize the Adjutant General to adopt rules to administer the fund according to rules adopted by the commissioner.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-438) proposed to add a \$1 contribution option for the Maine Military Family Relief Fund to the income tax return form. The amendment proposed to change the start of the fund from the 2005 tax year to the 2004 tax year. The amendment also proposed to specify that the Governor as Commander in Chief has rulemaking authority for the fund.

Although LD 1699 was not enacted, the substance of this bill was incorporated in LD 1724.