

# 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  
Business, Research and Economic Development*

*May 2004*

**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*

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*Rep. Robert A. Berube*

*Rep. Lawrence E. Jacobsen*

*Rep. Stephen R. Beaudette*

*Rep. William T. Rogers, Jr.*

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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](http://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 Business, Research and Economic Development

**LD 1883**

## An Act To Coordinate Education, Job Training and Employers in Maine

**PUBLIC 704**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COLWELL STANLEY	OTP-AM	H-825 S-598 CATHCART

LD 1883 proposed to create and expand opportunities in Maine to retain and attract youth, defined as persons 15 to 35 years of age. This bill proposed to do the following:

1. Direct the Department of Economic and Community Development to develop and implement a comprehensive marketing strategy to promote Maine to youth as an attractive location to pursue education, employment and business development opportunities;
2. Establish the Future for Youth in Maine State Work Action Tactics Team, or "S.W.A.T. Team," to bring together representatives of government, education, business and labor in a focused, coordinated effort to realign, streamline and oversee the State's economic development policy and specific efforts to retain and attract youth. The S.W.A.T. team would consist of 15 policy-making members, including at least 2 members under 35 years of age, and 8 advisory members;
3. Direct the trustees of the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System to develop and implement a formal process to work collaboratively with public and private sector representatives of business, industry and economic development to coordinate higher education planning and resource allocation decisions with the needs of the State's economy and business sector. The bill also proposed to direct the trustees to develop a comprehensive plan to coordinate higher education with the needs of the business sector and require the plan to address the needs of the business sector with respect to research and development, the commercialization of new products and services, business development and workforce training; and
4. Direct the Maine State Housing Authority to develop recommendations to create or modify programs with the goal of expanding access to housing for young professionals and young families and specifically to consider strategies to assist renters and first-time home buyers who are under 35 years of age and explore options for linking assistance levels to student loan obligations.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-825)** proposed to clarify the role of the Future for Youth in Maine State Work Action Tactics Team, the "S.W.A.T. team," and to specify that the S.W.A.T. team would be an advisory body that would recommend economic development policies to the Legislature and the Governor. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development would serve as the chair of the S.W.A.T. team, and the vice-chair would be selected from among the private sector members of the S.W.A.T. team.

The amendment also proposed to clarify the role of the S.W.A.T. team with respect to the Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System. The State's higher educational institutions would be represented on the S.W.A.T. team, but the S.W.A.T. team would not infringe upon the responsibilities and resources of the State's higher education institutions.

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

The amendment also proposed to require the S.W.A.T. team to review the need for educational and training programs for and job opportunities in the field of health care. The S.W.A.T. team would make recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor with respect to promoting opportunities in the health care field.

Finally, The amendment also proposed to delete the provision of the bill that would have given the S.W.A.T. team responsibility for providing oversight and recommendations concerning economic development policies, and to delete the S.W.A.T. team's annual reporting requirement and the annual reporting requirement for the comprehensive education plan.

**Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-598)** proposed to specify that the Department of Economic and Community Development's duty to develop and implement a comprehensive marketing strategy to promote Maine to youth would begin in fiscal year 2005-06, and to clarify that it is the representative of the Department of Economic and Community Development, appointed by the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, who would serve as chair of the S.W.A.T. team.

### *Enacted Law Summary*

Public Law 2003, chapter 704 creates and expands opportunities in Maine to retain and attract youth, defined as persons 15 to 35 years of age. The law does the following:

1. It directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to develop and implement a comprehensive marketing strategy, beginning in fiscal year 2005-06, to promote Maine to youth as an attractive location to pursue education, employment and business development opportunities;
2. It establishes the Future for Youth in Maine State Work Action Tactics Team, or "S.W.A.T. Team," to bring together representatives of government, education, business and labor in a focused, coordinated effort to advise and recommend economic development policy and specific efforts to retain and attract youth;
3. It directs the trustees of the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System to develop and implement a formal process to work collaboratively with public and private sector representatives of business, industry and economic development to coordinate higher education planning and resource allocation decisions with the needs of the State's economy and business sector, and to develop a comprehensive plan to coordinate higher education with the needs of the business sector; and
4. It directs the Maine State Housing Authority to develop recommendations to create or modify programs with the goal of expanding access to housing for young professionals and young families and specifically to consider strategies to assist renters and first-time home buyers who are under 35 years of age and explore options for linking assistance levels to student loan obligations.