

# 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*

*Rep. Susan M. Austin*

*Rep. Robert A. Berube*

*Rep. Lawrence E. Jacobsen*

*Rep. Stephen R. Beaudette*

*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  
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 1886**

**Resolve, Directing the Maine Municipal Bond Bank and the Finance Authority of Maine To Work Cooperatively with the Lincoln Water District Regarding Financing of the District**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CATHCART CARR	ONTP	

LD 1886 proposed to direct the Maine Municipal Bond Bank and the Finance Authority of Maine to work cooperatively with the Lincoln Water District to provide financing for the Lincoln Water District.

**LD 1908**

**An Act To Amend the Licensing Laws for Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters**

**PUBLIC 609**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS P PELLON	OTP MAJ ONTP MIN	

LD 1908 proposed to permit an audiologist licensed by the Board of Examiners on Speech-language Pathology and Audiology to obtain a permit to fit and dispense hearing aids to the public without undergoing a training period under the supervision of a licensed hearing aid dealer. In addition, the bill proposed to exempt a licensed audiologist from the examination requirement of the Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters as well as other restrictions associated with the business of dispensing hearing aids to the public.

***Enacted Law Summary***

Public Law 2003, chapter 609 permits an audiologist licensed by the Board of Examiners on Speech-language Pathology and Audiology to obtain a permit to fit and dispense hearing aids to the public without undergoing a training period under the supervision of a licensed hearing aid dealer. In addition, the law exempts a licensed audiologist from the examination requirement of the Board of Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters as well as other restrictions associated with the business of dispensing hearing aids to the public.

**LD 1914**

**Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 302: Rules for the Maine Microenterprise Initiative, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Economic and Community Development**

**RESOLVE 132  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-785

LD 1914 proposed to provide for legislative review of Chapter 302: Rules for the Maine Microenterprise Initiative, a major substantive rule of the Department of Economic and Community Development.