

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
Natural Resources*

May 2004

Staff:

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Members:

*Sen. John L. Martin, Chair
Sen. Betheda G. Edmonds
Sen. W. Tom Sawyer, Jr.*

*Rep. Theodore Koffman, Chair
Rep. Joanne T. Twomey
Rep. Deborah J. Hutton
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Rep. Henry L. Joy
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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
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any follow-up hearing must be given as provided for in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 406. It proposed to delete the requirement from the bill that a comprehensive plan is valid for 15 years. It also proposed to delete the provision in the bill that the State Planning Office makes the determination as to whether a zoning ordinance is consistent with a comprehensive plan for purposes of certain state development projects. The difference between this report and the majority report is that this report did not propose to delete the requirement from the bill that a copy of proposed changes to a comprehensive plan must be available for public inspection at least 7 days prior to any follow-up hearing on the plan. This amendment was not adopted.

Committee Amendment "C" (S-463) was a minority report. The amendment proposed to delete the requirement from the bill that a copy of proposed changes to a comprehensive plan must be available for public inspection at least 7 days prior to any follow-up hearing on the plan. It proposed to delete the requirement from the bill that a comprehensive plan is valid for 15 years. It also proposed to delete the provision in the bill that the State Planning Office makes the determination as to whether a zoning ordinance is consistent with a comprehensive plan for purposes of certain state development projects. The difference between this report and the majority report is that this report did not propose to change the law requiring public hearings on proposed comprehensive plans. This amendment was not adopted.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 641 clarifies that growth management related financial aid contracts are allowed to extend beyond a single fiscal year. It clarifies that floodplain ordinances that comply with the Federal Flood Insurance Program are exempt from the requirement that ordinances must be consistent with a comprehensive plan. It clarifies that the term "under this subchapter" means consistency with the procedures, goals and guidelines established in the growth management law. It amends notice requirements for follow-up public hearings that are held as a result of comments made at an initial public hearing. It provides that the Executive Department, State Planning Office, if requested, may review certain ordinances to determine whether they are consistent with a comprehensive plan without requiring submission of all elements of a growth management program.

Public Law 2003, chapter 641 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 14, 2004.

LD 1901

An Act To Protect Health and the Environment by Improving the System for the Collection and Recovery of Mercury-added Thermostats

PUBLIC 640

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-806

LD 1901 proposed to require manufacturers of mercury-added thermostats sold in the State to participate in a collection and recycling program that includes establishing 100 collection centers in the State. The bill also proposed to require manufacturers of mercury-added thermostats sold in the State to annually report to the Department of Environmental Protection on the progress of the collection and recycling program. The bill also proposed to set a goal of collecting and recycling at least 90% of all mercury-added thermostats removed from buildings and set an interim target for removal of 100 pounds of mercury by December 31, 2005. Finally, the bill proposed to direct the Department of Environmental Protection to submit a report on the effectiveness of the collection and recycling program to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over natural

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resources matters by January 30, 2006 and, if the target established in the bill is not met, to report on a plan for manufacturers to pay for each mercury-added thermostat returned to a collection center.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-806) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to prohibit a wholesaler from selling thermostats in the State unless the wholesaler acts as a collection site for thermostats that contain mercury either by participating in a manufacturer collection program or by disposing of the collected thermostats in accordance with universal waste rules adopted by the department.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 640 prohibits a wholesaler from selling thermostats in the State unless the wholesaler acts as a collection site for thermostats that contain mercury either by participating in a manufacturer collection program or by disposing of the collected thermostats in accordance with universal waste rules adopted by the department.