

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Legal and Veterans' Affairs*

July 2003

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*

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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:

<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 Legal and Veterans' Affairs

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2003, chapter 7 authorizes municipalities to consolidate voting districts for the purpose of holding a special election on bond issues in 2003.

Resolve 2003, chapter 7 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 30, 2003.

LD 1603 **Resolve, Authorizing Michaela Corbin-Bumford To Sue the State** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1603, a resolve, proposes to authorize Michaela Corbin-Bumford to sue the State for damages resulting from alleged wrongful removal from her home by the Department of Human Services. The maximum amount of any recovery in the lawsuit is limited to \$400,000. The resolve was reported out by the committee pursuant to joint order and proposed as a separate resolve rather than being included in LD 730.

LD 1603 has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 1613 **Resolve, Authorizing Germaine Bell To Sue the State** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GAGNON		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1613, a resolve, proposes to authorize Germaine Bell to bring a civil action against the State for damages in connection with services she received from the Department of Human Services.

LD 1613 has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.

SP 552 **JOINT STUDY ORDER – Establishing the Committee to Study the Implementation of the Privatization of the State's Wholesale Liquor Business** **PASSED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GAGNON		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-264
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Senate Paper 552 is a Joint Study Order to Study the Implementation of the Privatization of the State's Wholesale Liquor Business. This Joint Order was passed without reference to committee. This Joint Order establishes a Legislative Study Committee that is charged with reviewing the bidding process by which the State will lease the wholesale spirits distribution rights to a private distributor and to explore issues associated with the responsibility for enforcement the liquor laws. The committee is required to issue a report to the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature no later than December 3, 2003.

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

Senate Amendment "A" (S-264) provides that the Study committee may hold up to 3 meetings and may introduce a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature.