

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Legal and Veterans' Affairs*

July 2006

Members:

*Sen. Kenneth T. Gagnon, Chair
Sen. Elizabeth H. Mitchell
Sen. Debra D. Plowman*

*Rep. John L. Patrick, Chair
Rep. John L. Tuttle, Jr.
Rep. Charles D. Fisher
Rep. Linda M. Valentino
Rep. Randy E. Hotham
Rep. Richard B. Brown
Rep. Gary W. Moore*

*Rep. David N. Ott
Rep. Wright H. Pinkham, Sr.
Rep. Joan M. Nass
Rep. Frederick J. Moore, III*

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Maine State Legislature



Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Office of Fiscal and Program Review

122nd Maine Legislature Second 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 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 (Pocket Veto).....	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 August 23, 2006.

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

LD 70

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Funding of State Special Elections

**DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BROWN		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-354
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LD 70 proposed to require the State to pay the cost of holding special elections allowed by the Legislature by reimbursing municipalities for the election costs directly incurred.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-354) proposed to replace the bill. It would have provided that the State reimburse municipalities for the costs of conducting a special election for the purpose of voting on bonds. Reimbursement rates would have been based on the population of a municipality.

LD 70 was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table from the First Special Session of the 122nd by S. P. 640.

LD 234

An Act To Establish a Transparent Pricing Formula for Distilled Spirits

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TUTTLE		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 234, a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposed to require that the pricing formula the State adopts for liquor be made available to the public. The State would be required to give notice of price changes and provide an opportunity for interested parties to make comments. The resulting liquor prices would be based upon an objective standard.

LD 329

An Act Concerning Recognition of Qualified Political Parties

**DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> EDER		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-161
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LD 329 proposed that a recognized political party would be able to maintain its qualified status by either receiving 5% of the ballots cast for Governor or President in either of the 2 preceding general elections or maintaining an enrollment of members equal to 0.5% of all registered voters in the State.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-161) proposed to raise the percentage of registered voters a political party would need to have enrolled in order to achieve qualified party status from 0.5%, as proposed in the bill, to 1% according to at least one tabulation of registered voters in either of the 2 preceding elections.

LD 329 was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table from the First Special Session of the 122nd Legislature by S.P. 640.