

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

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

July 2006

Members:

Sen. Lynn Bromley, Chair

Sen. Barry J. Hobbins

Sen. Dana L. Dow

Rep. Nancy E. Smith, Chair

Rep. Lillian LaFontaine O'Brien

Rep. Stephen R. Beaudette

Rep. Charles Earl Crosby, III

Rep. David W. Farrington

Rep. Christopher Rector

Rep. Susan M. Austin

Rep. Robert A. Berube

Rep. Lawrence E. Jacobsen

Rep. John C. Robinson

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Maine State Legislature



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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 Business, Research and Economic Development

LD 192

An Act To Establish the Pine Tree Recreation Zone

**PUBLIC 555
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MOODY DAVIS P	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-929
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LD 192 proposed to establish the Pine Tree Recreation Zone as the area of the State north and east of the Androscoggin River. The bill proposed to provide that businesses that establish or expand within the Pine Tree Recreation Zone operations involving outdoor recreation, such as providing services or merchandise relating to guiding, hunting, fishing, skiing, snowboarding, snowmobiling or water sports, would be eligible for tax benefits equal to those offered to businesses under the Pine Tree Development Zone program. As proposed, these benefits would include sales tax exemptions for certain building materials and tangible personal property, exclusion from the calculation of a municipality's tax increment financing district within the Pine Tree Recreation Zone, employment tax increment financing for a fixed period of years and state income tax credits for a fixed number of years.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-929) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to establish the Pine Tree Recreation Zone as the area of the State north and east of the Androscoggin River in order to expand recreational and agricultural tourism and economic development in central and northern Maine. It proposed to provide that business projects will be eligible for benefits if they are located within the Pine Tree Recreation Zone, are in a labor market area with a population density of less than 30 people per square mile and derive at least 50% of their business from sustainable recreational or agricultural tourism activities. The amendment proposed to authorize the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to adopt major substantive rules to administer the program and to delineate a process by which qualified projects may apply for funding from grants and loans, including loans administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, and proposed to establish an effective date for the Pine Tree Recreation Zone of January 1, 2008.

In addition, the amendment proposed to direct the Department of Economic and Community Development to convene meetings with representatives of departments and stakeholder associations to gather information on effective methods for attracting, retaining and developing natural resource-based industries and nature-based tourism in central and northern Maine and to structure the eligibility criteria and benefit structure for the Pine Tree Recreation Zone program participants and qualified projects. It also proposed to require the commissioner to use the information gathered to develop a strategic plan for attracting, retaining and expanding new and existing natural resource-based industries in central and northern Maine and to report by February 15, 2007 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters on the details of this strategic plan for the Pine Tree Recreation Zone. Finally, the amendment proposed to authorize the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters to report out legislation on this issue to the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 555 establishes the Pine Tree Recreation Zone as the area of the State north and east of the Androscoggin River in order to expand recreational and agricultural tourism and economic development in central and northern Maine. The law provides that business projects may be eligible for benefits if they are located within the Pine Tree Recreation Zone, are in a labor market area with a population density of less than 30

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people per square mile and derive at least 50% of their business from sustainable recreational or agricultural tourism activities. The law authorizes the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to adopt major substantive rules to administer the program and to delineate a process by which qualified projects may apply for funding from grants and loans, including loans administered by the Finance Authority of Maine. The law establishes an effective date for the Pine Tree Recreation Zone of January 1, 2008.

In addition, the law directs the Department of Economic and Community Development to convene meetings with representatives of departments and stakeholder associations to gather information on effective methods for attracting, retaining and developing natural resource-based industries and nature-based tourism in central and northern Maine and to structure the eligibility criteria and benefit structure for the Pine Tree Recreation Zone program participants and qualified projects. The law also requires the commissioner to use the information gathered to develop a strategic plan for attracting, retaining and expanding new and existing natural resource-based industries in central and northern Maine and to report by February 15, 2007 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters on the details of this strategic plan. Finally, the law authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters to report out legislation on this issue to the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

Public Law 2005, chapter 555 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 10, 2006.

LD 1135 **An Act To Safeguard Federalism in Trade** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HUTTON STRIMLING	ONTP	

LD 1135 proposed to require the appointment of legislative points of contact for federal trade agreements at the beginning of each legislative session. The bill also proposed to require legislative approval before the State signs on to any trade agreement and proposed to require the Attorney General to notify the United States Trade Representative of the provisions of this bill along with the leadership of the Legislature and the State's congressional delegation.

LD 1358 **Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study Incentives That Foster Small Business Practices That Support the Economic Growth and Well-being of Maine People and Communities** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WEBSTER DOW	ONTP	

LD 1358 proposed to establish the Commission to Study Incentives that Foster Small Business Practices that Support the Economic Growth and Well-being of Maine People and Communities.