

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

July 2006

Members:

*Sen. Margaret Rotundo, Chair
Sen. John L. Martin
Sen. Richard A. Nass*

*Rep. Joseph C. Brannigan
Rep. Benjamin F. Dudley
Rep. Margaret M. Craven
Rep. Jeremy Fischer
Rep. Arthur L. Lerman
Rep. Janet T. Mills
Rep. H. Sawin Millett, Jr.
Rep. Robert W. Nutting
Rep. Stephen Bowen
Rep. Darlene J. Curley*

Staff:

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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 Appropriations and Financial Affairs

LD 274 **An Act To Raise the University of Maine System Debt Ceiling** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TURNER MCKENNEY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 274 proposed increasing the tax-exempt borrowing authority for the University of Maine System from \$170,000,000 to \$220,000,000.
(Note: 2005 Public Law, chapter 386, Part U authorized the same increased amount.)

LD 292 **An Act To Establish a New Method of Determining the State Budget** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JOY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 292 proposed to shift the start of the fiscal biennium for the state budget from the first regular session of the Legislature to the second regular session of the Legislature, effective for the biennium that begins on July 1, 2008 and further proposed a one-year budget for the period beginning on July 1, 2007.

LD 404 **An Act To Ensure the State's Continued Commitment to Former Students Who Were Physically or Sexually Abused at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf or the Maine School for the Deaf** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> EDMONDS BLISS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 404 proposed a General Fund appropriation of \$8,400,000 in fiscal year 2005-06 to the Baxter Compensation Authority to provide cash awards to former students of the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf or the Maine School for the Deaf who were found to have suffered physical or sexual abuse.

(Note: Via 2005 Public Law, chapter 386, Part Z the Authority received a \$1,000,000 appropriation in fiscal year 2005-06 and the authority to receive a transfer of \$7,122,000 from available fiscal year 2004-05 unappropriated surplus of the General Fund for the purpose identified above. The transfer of \$7,122,000 was made.)