

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and  
First Special Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Select Committee  
on  
Property Tax Reform*

*August 2005*

**Members:**

*Sen. Dennis S. Damon, Chair  
Sen. Joseph C. Perry  
Sen. Peter Mills  
Sen. Richard W. Rosen*

*Rep. Richard G. Woodbury, Chair  
Rep. Arthur L. Lerman  
Rep. Benjamin F. Dudley.  
Rep. Edward R Dugay.  
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Maine State Legislature

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122nd Legislature
First Regular Session and First Special Session

Summary of Legislation Considered by the Joint Standing Committees
August 2005

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 organized by committees 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. A subject index for each committee is included immediately before the bill summaries for that committee, and a numerical index by LD number is included 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:

- CARRIED OVER ..... Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session
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
OTP ND/NT..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
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 the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 29, 2005; and for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session is September 17, 2005.

## *Joint Select Committee on Property Tax Reform*

6. It increases the homestead property tax exemption to \$13,000 for all homesteads and provides 50% state reimbursement to municipalities.
7. It sets the ceiling on the Local Government Fund under state-municipal revenue sharing at \$100,000,000 in fiscal year 2005-06 and provides for future indexing of the ceiling according to the Consumer Price Index. This change increases the portion of state-municipal revenue sharing funds transferred to the Disproportionate Tax Burden Fund, also referred to as Revenue Sharing 2, which provides greater payments to municipalities with tax rates exceeding 10 mills.

**LD 2                      RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of    CARRIED OVER  
Maine to Limit the Rate of Change in Taxable Value of Homestead  
Land**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PERCY DAMON		

LD 2 proposed to amend the Constitution to authorize a municipality to limit the rate of change in the tax rate applicable to homestead land, defined as land that is exclusively and continuously owned by one or more residents of the State while the land remains the principal home of each owner, to the rate of change in the purchasing power of United States currency as consistently measured by a reliable index adopted by the Legislature.

This bill was recommitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation and carried over by H.P. 1203 to the next special or regular session of the 122<sup>nd</sup> Legislature.

**LD 295                      RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of    DIED BETWEEN  
Maine To Allow the Legislature to Permit Municipalities To Adopt                      HOUSES  
a Higher Property Tax Rate on Secondary Residential Property**

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

LD 295 proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to allow the Legislature to permit municipalities to adopt a tax rate on secondary residential property that is up to 25% higher than the property tax rate on other property.