

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and
First Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on*

Business, Research and Economic Development

August 2005

Members:

Sen. Lynn Bromley, Chair

Sen. Barry J. Hobbins

Sen. Dana L. Dow

Rep. Nancy E. Smith, Chair

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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.

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education program in Maine is considered to have satisfied the postgraduate training requirements if the applicant continues in that program and completes 36 months of postgraduate training.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 162 makes a number of technical changes to the law concerning the Board of Licensure in Medicine. The law clarifies and provides specific grounds for disciplining physician assistants. It changes the postgraduate training requirements for licensure for applicants who have graduated from an accredited or unaccredited medical school on or after July 1, 2004 to require the completion of at least 36 months in a graduate educational program. The law also provides that an applicant who has completed 24 months of postgraduate training and has received an unrestricted endorsement from the director of an accredited graduate education program in Maine is considered to have satisfied the postgraduate training requirements if the applicant continues in that program and completes 36 months of postgraduate training. The law repeals sections of law referring to a state examination and reexamination of physician licensure applicants since the board now uses the national standardized examination set. It changes the nomenclature of the "locum tenens" license. The law also requires physicians 70 years of age or older who continue active practice to pay license registration fees.

LD 399

An Act To Recruit and Retain College Graduates through Loan Repayment

PUBLIC 427

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FISCHER	OTP-AM MAJ	H-553
MITCHELL	ONTP MIN	S-400 ROTUNDO

LD 399 proposed to establish the Future for Youth in Maine Loan Repayment Program to recruit and retain college graduates to start new technology-based businesses and to work in occupations and industries facing labor shortages in the State. The bill proposed to provide that the program would issue loan repayments of up to \$5,000 per year for a maximum of 4 years for graduates who are employed in new technology-based businesses within the Applied Technology Development Center System or in occupations or industries that are facing labor shortages. The bill proposed to direct the Finance Authority of Maine to administer the program.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-553) proposed to provide that an "eligible employment position" may include a position as an employee of a technology-based business developed within any statewide recognized economic development entity. It proposed to delete the provision in the bill that allows eligibility based on full-time employment within a labor shortage area. It also proposed to require the Finance Authority of Maine to identify the eligibility rules for the program in consultation with the Governor.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-400) proposed to strike the appropriation of \$1,000,000 per year to the Future for Youth in Maine Loan Repayment Program. The amendment proposed to allow the Finance Authority of Maine to receive money from sources other than the State to be used to provide loans.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 427 establishes the Future for Youth in Maine Loan Repayment Program to recruit and retain college graduates to start new technology-based businesses and to work as employees of technology-based businesses within any statewide recognized economic development entity. The program will provide loan repayments of up to \$5,000 per year for a maximum of 4 years for graduates who are employed in new

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technology-based businesses within the Applied Technology Development Center System or other statewide recognized economic development entities. The law directs the Finance Authority of Maine to administer the program and allows the Finance Authority of Maine to receive money from sources other than the State to provide the loans.

The law requires the Finance Authority of Maine to report on the program to the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters and to the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business matters no later than January 15, 2007 and annually thereafter.

LD 449

An Act To Make Changes to the Pine Tree Development Zones

**PUBLIC 351
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)
MITCHELL
ROBINSON

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
S-297

LD 449 proposed to make the following changes to the Pine Tree Development Zone laws:

1. Clarify the base period prior to a business applying for Pine Tree Development Zone status;
2. Add the utility benefits enacted by Public Law 2003, chapter 610;
3. Remove the authority of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services to review a business certification statement;
4. Clarify the type of land included in the 5,000-acre cap;
5. Allow the Department of Economic and Community Development to add acreage to a zone in order to meet specific project needs;
6. Remove the limit on the number of parcels allowed within a zone;
7. Simplify the amendment process for a zone; and
8. Set criteria for the department to determine when to add acreage to a Pine Tree Development Zone.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-297) proposed to replace the bill and make the following changes to the laws governing the Pine Tree Development Zone, or "zone," program:

1. Clarify the method for determining baseline information, add language to adjust employment seasonality and align definitions with the Maine Employment Tax Increment Financing Program, or "ETIF program;"
2. Update a statutory reference made obsolete by changes made in this amendment;
3. Add the utility benefits enacted by Public Law 2003, chapter 610;