

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
Judiciary*

August 2005

Members:

Sen. Barry J. Hobbins, Chair

Sen. Lynn Bromley

Sen. David R. Hastings III

*Rep. Deborah L. Pelletier-Simpson,
Chair*

Rep. Sean Faircloth

Rep. Stan Gerzofsky

Rep. Marilyn E. Canavan

Rep. Mark E. Bryant

Rep. Michael Edward Dunn

Rep. Roger L. Sherman

Rep. Roderick W. Carr

Rep. Joan Bryant-Deschenes

Rep. Joan M. Nass

Rep. Donna M. Loring

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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 Standing Committee on Judiciary

LD 644

An Act To Prohibit Discrimination in Housing

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STRIMLING PELLETIER- SIMPSON	ONTP	

LD 644 proposed to eliminate exclusions from the unlawful housing discrimination laws the rental of a one-family unit of a two-family dwelling if one unit is owner-occupied or the rental of four or fewer rooms of a one-family dwelling that is owner-occupied.

LD 645

An Act To Promote the Commonsense Consumption of Food

PUBLIC 355

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TURNER MCKENNEY	OTP-AM	S-324

LD 645 proposed to create a defense for a person or business entity that serves food from claims of obesity of or excessive weight gain by consumers as a result of their long-term consumption of food from that person or entity. Exceptions to this defense would be instances in which food items are altered or misbranded and certain cases of other knowing and willful violations of state or federal law.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-324) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to simplify the immunity provided to state that the manufacturer, distributor or seller of a food product is not liable for personal injury or death to the extent the liability is based on the person's weight gain or obesity resulting from the person's long-term consumption of the food product. It proposed no immunity for a manufacturer or distributor for claims that are otherwise available under other law if the manufacturer or distributor failed to comply with labeling or disclosure requirements under state or federal laws, rules or regulations. It also proposed no immunity for a manufacturer or distributor that provided materially false or misleading information to the public.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 355 provides immunity to the manufacturer, distributor or seller of a food product for personal injury or death to the extent the liability is based on the person's weight gain or obesity resulting from the person's long-term consumption of the food product. No immunity is provided for a manufacturer or distributor for claims that are otherwise available under other law if the manufacturer or distributor failed to comply with labeling or disclosure requirements under state or federal laws, rules or regulations. It also does not provide immunity for a manufacturer or distributor that provided materially false or misleading information to the public.