

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
Appropriations and Financial Affairs*

August 2005

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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 Appropriations and Financial Affairs

- 12. The sum of \$4,000,000 to outfit the Laboratory for Surface Science Technology clean room facility at the University of Maine with state-of-the-art nanofabrication tools and instrumentation to leverage \$4,000,000 in federal grants and contracts for research;
- 13. The sum of \$3,000,000 to renovate Camden Hall on the University of Maine-Bangor campus for a graduate school for biomedical science;
- 14. The sum of \$2,000,000 for capital costs and equipment for the career center facility at the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College;
- 15. The sum of \$1,000,000 for education loan repayment incentives through the Finance Authority of Maine to retain and recruit skilled workers in Maine;
- 16. The sum of \$3,000,000 for recapitalization of the Economic Recovery Program through the Finance Authority of Maine;
- 17. The sum of \$1,000,000 for the development of the Sunrise Business and Career Center in the Town of Jonesboro;
- 18. The sum of \$4,000,000 to provide funds for the development of affordable workforce housing and downtown housing and for weatherization and home repair in anticipation of an additional \$9,000,000 in other public and private funding; and
- 19. The sum of \$1,000,000 for family and elderly housing options for Native American tribes through the Four Directions Development Corporation to help attract \$1,000,000 in federal funds.

Part B of this bill proposed to establish a grant program for the acquisition of real estate that constitutes working waterfront in coastal harbors.

Part C of this bill proposed to reorganize the laws governing the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund.

Part D of this bill proposed to establish the Maine Recruitment and Retention Program within the Finance Authority of Maine to provide repayment of educational loans of individuals who have a bachelor's degree and work in Maine for 4 years.

This bill was carried over by H.P. 1203 to any special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature.

LD 1035

An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide Funds for the Land for Maine's Future Program

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
FISCHER
BRYANT B

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1035 proposed a General Fund bond issue in the amount of \$50,000,000 to be used to recapitalize the Land for Maine's Future program with \$50,000,000 to continue the State's land conservation efforts, to be matched by at least \$25,000,000 in private and public funds.

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Part B of this bill proposed to amend the land acquisition priorities of the Land for Maine's Future program to include service center communities.

This bill was carried over by H.P. 1203 to any special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature.

LD 1043 An Act To Provide Funds for the Preservation of Digital Records CARRIED OVER

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

LD 1043 proposed to provide funds for a digital records management analyst position within the Department of the Secretary of State, Maine State Archives, beginning October 1, 2005 to provide technical and professional leadership and management for the preservation of the State's permanently valuable digital records.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table by S. P. 640 to the next special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature.

**LD 1109 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of ONTP
Maine To Restrict an Increase in the Growth of the State Budget**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KAELIN	ONTP MAJ	
WESTON	OTP MIN	

LD 1109 proposed to establish a ceiling on the growth in state spending to a percentage rate equal to 2/3 of the average real personal income growth rate plus 2/3 of the average forecasted inflation rate, require a 2/3 vote of the Legislature to approve General Fund expenditures that exceed this ceiling and require that surplus funds be distributed: first, to a capital construction and improvements reserve fund and a budget stabilization fund; 2nd, to reduce the unfunded liability of the Maine State Retirement System and to conform Maine tax law with the United States Internal Revenue Code; and 3rd, to the people of the State of Maine.

LD 1125 An Act To Establish the Disaster Relief Fund PUBLIC 439

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EDMONDS	OTP-AM MAJ	S-140
	ONTP MIN	S-397 ROTUNDO

LD 1125 proposed to establish the Homeland Security Relief Fund and authorize transfers to the fund from the General Fund as available until a maximum of \$5,000,000 is available in the fund. The bill proposed to specify that the fund may contain any federal money deposited in the fund and all interest earned on the fund's balance.