

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

*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:

James K. Dionne, Principal Analyst

*Office of Fiscal and Program Review
5 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1635*

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

2. Authorize that the fund be allowed to accept appropriations and transfers by the Legislature.
3. Authorize a transfer of unappropriated General Fund surplus to the account and provides necessary Other Special Revenue Funds allocations for the account.
4. Specify the amount of the allocation for the restoration of the clam flats in Stockton Harbor is \$40,000 in fiscal year 2005-06 only, the allocation for the competitive grants program in fiscal year 2005-06 is \$12,300 and proposed a minimum allocation for the competitive grants program in fiscal year 2006-07 of \$500

Senate Amendment “A” to Committee Amendment “A” (S-683) proposed to eliminate the requirement that the Department of Marine Resources develop a competitive grant program for improvement and protection of the State's marine environment and the funding for that program. This amendment also proposed the General Fund transfer and corresponding allocation for the restoration of the clam flats in Stockton Harbor be \$25,000 in fiscal year 2006-07.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 641 reestablishes the Maine Coast Environmental Trust Fund in the Department of Marine Resources; allows the fund to accept appropriations and transfers authorized by the Legislature; authorizes a transfer of \$25,000 from the unappropriated General Fund surplus to the account and provides an Other Special Revenue Funds allocation in fiscal year 2006-07 for the account for the restoration of the clam flats in Stockton Harbor.

LD 1278 **An Act Requiring Long-range Budget Planning** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WOODBURY MARTIN	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
---	---------------------------------	---------------------------

LD 1278 proposed the State Budget Officer prepare a forecast of revenues and expenditures for the 3 biennia immediately following the current biennium and requires the Governor to use the forecast to develop a long-range budget plan and submit the plan to the Legislature along with the regular biennial budget.

LD 1293 **An Act To Assist Families and Children by Increasing Access to the Court System** **DIED ON ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SIMPSON HOBBINS	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-196
---	---	------------------------------------

LD 1293 proposed General Fund appropriations of \$154,664 in fiscal year 2005-06 and \$147,943 in fiscal year 2006-07 and Federal Expenditures Fund allocations of \$300,230 in fiscal year 2005-06 and \$287,183 in fiscal year 2006-07 to the Judicial Department to provide funds for 2 family case management officers, 2 assistant clerks and 2 security officers to reduce the backlog of cases in counties with larger populations.

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Committee Amendment “A” (H-196) proposed to remove the emergency preamble and the emergency clause from the bill, proposed the positions be used where the need is most acute and proposed the personal services appropriations and allocations be amended to reflect an estimated start date of October 1, 2005.

LD 1311 An Act To Preserve the Integrity of the Fund for a Healthy Maine ONTP

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

LD 1311 proposed that in certain circumstances allocations from the Fund for a Healthy Maine be voted on in separate legislation.

LD 1330 Resolve, To Lower the Cost of State Government by \$1,000,000 Annually DIED ON ADJOURNMENT

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NUTTING J	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	S-636

LD 1330 proposed to reduce state spending by approximately \$1,000,000 annually, commencing with fiscal year 2006-07. This resolve proposed that the Governor identify and recommend for elimination to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs 8 politically appointed positions in State Government.

Committee Amendment “A” (S-636) is the minority report and it proposed to eliminate reference to a specific number of positions to be eliminated, specified that spending be reduced by \$1,000,000 annually and changed the reporting date to October 1, 2006.

LD 1348 An Act To Increase Funding for Meals on Wheels Program P & S 64 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL NASS R	OTP-AM	H-279 S-684 ROTUNDO

LD 1348 proposed a General Fund appropriation of \$100,000 in fiscal yeas 2005-06 and 2006-07 to reimburse volunteers of meals on wheels programs for travel expenses.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-279) clarified the use and recipient of the appropriation.

Senate Amendment “A” to Committee Amendment “A” (S-684) added an emergency preamble to the bill, proposed the appropriation for fiscal year 2005-06 be reduced to \$75,000 and eliminated the General Fund appropriation for fiscal year 2006-07.