

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

Rep. Lillian LaFontaine O'Brien

Rep. Stephen R. Beaudette

Rep. Charles Earl Crosby, III

Rep. David W. Farrington

Rep. Christopher Rector

Rep. Susan M. Austin

Rep. Robert A. Berube

Rep. Lawrence E. Jacobsen

Rep. John C. Robinson

Staff:

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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.

LD 1340

An Act To Amend the Law Governing the Licensure of Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard-of-hearing

PUBLIC 267

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> EDMONDS PERCY	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-216
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LD 1340 proposed to make the following changes to the laws governing licensure for interpreters for the deaf and hard-of-hearing:

1. It provides that achieving a score of 3.5 on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment may be used as an additional method of obtaining licensure as a limited interpreter for the deaf or hard-of-hearing or a limited transliterator;
2. It eliminates the requirement that an interpreter disclose the interpreter's training and experience to a consumer or persons utilizing the services of the interpreter in order to make the disclosure more meaningful to the consumer and less burdensome for the interpreter;
3. It decreases the initial and renewal license fees for applicants who are deaf from \$300 to \$100;
4. It increases from 15 to 20 the annual number of hours of continuing education that must be completed by persons licensed as limited interpreters, limited transliterators and limited deaf interpreters; and
5. It repeals transitional language relating to qualifications for limited licenses.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-216) proposed to increase the fee cap for initial and renewal license fees, except for applicants who are deaf, from \$300 to \$325.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 267 makes the following changes to the laws governing licensure for interpreters for the deaf and hard-of-hearing:

1. It provides that achieving a score of 3.5 on the Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment may be used as an additional method of obtaining licensure as a limited interpreter for the deaf or hard-of-hearing or a limited transliterator;
2. It eliminates the requirement that an interpreter disclose the interpreter's training and experience to a consumer or persons utilizing the services of the interpreter in order to make the disclosure more meaningful to the consumer and less burdensome for the interpreter;
3. It increases the fee cap for initial and renewal license fees, except for applicants who are deaf, from \$300 to \$325;
4. It decreases the initial and renewal license fees for applicants who are deaf from \$300 to \$100;
5. It increases from 15 to 20 the annual number of hours of continuing education that must be completed by persons licensed as limited interpreters, limited transliterators and limited deaf interpreters; and

Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

6. It repeals transitional language relating to qualifications for limited licenses.

LD 1352 An Act To Establish the Office of the Small Business Ombudsman ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RECTOR DOW		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1352, a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposed to establish the Office of the Small Business Ombudsman in the Department of Economic and Community Development. The responsibilities of the ombudsman would be to:

1. Assist businesses in obtaining permits and licenses and meeting other state requirements for the business;
2. Analyze the permitting process and recommend changes to streamline that process;
3. Review proposed legislation to determine the impact of that legislation on small business in the State;
4. Report all recommendations regarding changes to the permitting process and determinations regarding the impact of proposed legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the recommended changes or legislation; and
5. Report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters.

LD 1358 Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study Incentives That Foster Small Business Practices That Support the Economic Growth and Well-being of Maine People and Communities CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WEBSTER DOW		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1358 proposed to establish the Commission to Study Incentives that Foster Small Business Practices that Support the Economic Growth and Well-being of Maine People and Communities.

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