

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

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Rep. Robert A. Berube

Rep. Lawrence E. Jacobsen

Rep. John C. Robinson

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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 Business, Research and Economic Development

LD 1549 **An Act To Require Funeral Establishments To Counsel Next of Kin on Embalming** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRYANT M DIAMOND	ONTP	

LD 1549 proposed to provide that a funeral establishment or person licensed for the practice of funeral service shall provide, orally and in writing, timely counseling on embalming to the next of kin or legal representative of a person who has died in order to enable the next of kin or legal representative to make an informed decision regarding embalming. The counseling proposed by this bill would include the fact that embalming is not performed automatically, the implications and consequences of a decision to embalm or not to embalm, including the fact that embalming may be necessary in order to have a funeral with viewing, and the importance of making a timely decision of whether to embalm.

LD 1629 **An Act To Enable Bulk Purchasing of Heating Oil Eligible for Federal Reimbursement** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RICHARDSON J MARTIN		

LD 1629, a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposed to provide the Maine State Housing Authority with bonding authority to enable the purchase of heating oil in bulk from qualified vendors, at a discount, for persons eligible to receive assistance from the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program in advance of receipt of federal funds for that heating oil.

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

LD 1651 **An Act To Register Canadian Pharmacies To Provide Safe Reimportation of Prescription Drugs** **ONTP**

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

LD 1651 proposed to authorize the Maine Board of Pharmacy to register Canadian pharmacies to provide prescription drugs by mail order to residents of the State and direct Canadian pharmacies that have been registered be included on a website established and maintained by the Department of Health and Human Services. The bill proposed to require the website to provide information to consumers concerning the Canadian pharmacies approved by the board and the web links for those pharmacies. In addition, this bill proposed to limit the drugs sold, distributed or furnished through mail order service by pharmacies located outside of Maine to Maine residents.