

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

Staff:

Margaret J. Reinsch, Senior Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207) 287-1670



Maine State Legislature

OFFICE OF POLICY & LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Room 215 Cross State Office Building
Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

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 1646

An Act Regarding Buildings on Leased Lots

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLARK DAVIS P		

LD 1646 proposed changes to the laws governing buildings on leased land in the following ways:

1. To provide that these laws apply to land in an organized area as well as to land in the unorganized territory;
2. To provide that a lessor may not terminate a lease without just cause and that a lessor shall reimburse a lessee for the fair market value of all improvements on the leased real estate if the lessor terminates the lease;
3. To provide a lessee with a right of first refusal for the fair market value of the leased land with regard to the leased premises if the lessor intends to sell any real estate in this State. If a lessee does not elect to purchase the leased premises, the lease continues with the same terms, except for annual rental fees, for no less than 50 years. The annual rental fee is capped at 5% of the fair market value of the leased premises, excluding improvements; and
4. To exempt certain transactions from capital gains taxation and certain land use laws.

See also LD 162.

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

LD 1679

An Act To Amend Procedures Used in Criminal Proceedings in Which the Victim Is Mentally Disabled

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE HOBBINS		

LD 1679 proposed to extend the admissibility into evidence of certain out-of-court statements describing sexual contact to those made by persons with mental retardation.

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

LD 1682

An Act To Support Sibling Rights in Child Welfare Custody Matters

CARRIED OVER

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

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

LD 1682 proposed to allow the court to order sibling visitation for a child in foster care when it is in the best interests of the child to do so.

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