

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
State and Local Government*

July 2006

Members:

*Sen. Elizabeth M. Schneider, Chair
Sen. Margaret Rotundo
Sen. Mary Black Andrews*

*Rep. Christopher R. Barstow, Chair
Rep. Richard D. Blanchard
Rep. Charles William Harlow
Rep. James M. Schatz
Rep. Robert H. Crosthwaite
Rep. George R. Bishop, Jr.
Rep. Howard E. McFadden
Rep. Bradley S. Moulton
Rep. Roberta M. Muse
Rep. William P. Browne*

Staff:

Anna T. Broome, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670*

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 State and Local Government

LD 1713

Resolve, To Direct the Department of Audit To Establish a Working Group To Develop a Model Chart of Accounts for All Levels of Government

RESOLVE 136

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-752
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LD 1713 proposed to direct the Executive Department, State Planning Office to establish a working group to develop a standard accounting format for municipalities and counties. The State Planning Office would consult with state agencies and advocacy groups and report its findings and suggested legislation to the Intergovernmental Advisory Commission. The commission may report out legislation to the First Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-752) proposed to direct the Department of Audit to create a working group to develop a model chart of accounts that may be voluntarily adopted by municipalities, counties and the State, as applicable. The standard format is intended to allow towns to enter into cooperative agreements for cost-saving purposes. The Department of Audit would report its findings to the Intergovernmental Advisory Commission by November 1, 2006.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2005, chapter 136 directs the Department of Audit to create a working group to develop a model chart of accounts. The model chart of accounts may be voluntarily adopted by municipalities, counties and the State, as applicable. The standard format is intended to allow towns to enter into cooperative agreements for cost-savings purposes. The Department of Audit shall report its findings to the Intergovernmental Advisory Commission by November 1, 2006.

LD 1714

An Act To Increase Funding for the Intergovernmental Advisory Commission

P & S 62

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-769
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LD 1714 proposed to increase staffing for the Intergovernmental Advisory Commission. An appropriation of \$4,000 would be used for administrative and research services. The Executive Department, State Planning Office would arrange the staffing that is supported by this appropriation.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-769) proposed to appropriate \$10,000 for the Intergovernmental Advisory Commission for planning and holding a conference.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 2005, chapter 62 appropriates \$10,000 for the Intergovernmental Advisory Commission to be used for planning and holding a conference.