

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*

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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 1788

An Act To Confirm the Authority of the City of Saco To Acquire Extraterritorial Facilities

ONTP

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

LD 1788 proposed to confirm the authority of the city of Saco, as provided in its charter, to issue bonds, notes and other evidences of indebtedness to acquire interests in real estate located outside the political boundaries of the city in order to improve environmental or economic conditions within the city. This confirmation of the city's extraterritorial authority would be required in connection with the city's plan to issue bonds to acquire and ultimately close the Maine Energy Recovery Company facility in Biddeford.

LD 1846

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Establish a Working Group To Examine Ways for Municipalities To Distribute More Heating Assistance

RESOLVE 146

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SCHATZ DAMON	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-790

LD 1846 proposed to streamline criteria for municipal general assistance for heating and utility assistance.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-790) proposed to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a working group to examine ways for municipalities to distribute more heating assistance to residents who are eligible for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The department would submit its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters by December 15, 2006.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2005, Chapter 146 directs the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a working group to examine ways for municipalities to distribute more heating assistance to residents who are eligible for the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The department shall submit its findings and recommendations, including suggested legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters by December 15, 2006.