

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Business, Research and Economic Development*

July 2006

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:

Natalie L. Haynes, 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 Business, Research and Economic Development

LD 1943 **An Act Regarding Allocation of the Low-income Housing Credit** **POCKET VETO**
by the Maine State Housing Authority

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BROMLEY SMITH N	OTP-AM	S-619

LD 1943 proposed to prohibit the Maine State Housing Authority from giving any preference to a bidder for purposes of awarding a contract unless that preference is specifically authorized by law or by a rule that is reviewed and authorized by the Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-619) proposed to provide that the Maine State Housing Authority may not use selection criteria in allocating the annual state housing credit ceiling for the low-income housing credit or in awarding funds to developers of multifamily housing that reward developers who require construction contractors to conform with employment standards beyond those required to comply with state or federal law.

LD 1944 **An Act To Implement Certain Recommendations of the** **PUBLIC 637**
Washington County Economic Development Task Force

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RAYE	OTP-AM MAJ	S-597
DUGAY	OTP-AM MIN	S-692 ROTUNDO

LD 1944 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposed to implement certain recommendations of the Governor's Washington County Economic Development Task Force.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-597) was the majority report of the committee. The amendment proposed to allow the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to establish 2 pilot Pine Tree Development Zone projects in Washington County that would allow seasonal employees in seasonal industries based on natural resources in Washington County to be considered full-time employees for the purposes of the Pine Tree Development Zone laws and would waive the qualifying business requirements for the property of the former Cutler naval computer and telecommunications station, if a for-profit business is engaged in, or will engage in, tourism development including recreational tourism, experiential tourism, hotel development and resort facility development. The amendment also proposed to provide a definition for "experiential tourism." It also proposed to require the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to report by February 15, 2008 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters on the progress of the 2 pilot projects, including any proposed changes to the pilot projects. It proposed to authorize the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters to report out legislation on the Washington County pilot projects to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature. The amendment included an appropriations and allocations section that provided funding for the Downeast Heritage Museum, the Incubator Without Walls entrepreneurial workshops, the Sunrise County Economic Council and the Maine Technology Institute to supplement grants that are targeted for Washington County.

Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-692) proposed to eliminate the funding for the Downeast Heritage Museum, the Incubator Without Walls entrepreneurial workshops and the Sunrise County Economic Council and instead proposed to appropriate one-time funds for the Washington County Development Authority to be distributed through a request for proposal process.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 637 provides the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development with the authority to establish 2 pilot Pine Tree Development Zone projects in Washington County and the Downeast region. For these projects, the law allows seasonal employees in seasonal industries based on natural resources to be considered full-time employees for the purposes of the Pine Tree Development Zone laws and waives the qualifying business requirements for the property of the former Cutler naval computer and telecommunications station, if a for-profit business is engaged in, or will engage in, tourism development including recreational tourism, experiential tourism, hotel development and resort facility development. The law requires the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to report by February 15, 2008 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over taxation matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters on the progress of the 2 pilot projects, including any proposed changes to the projects. The law authorizes the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business, research and economic development matters to report out legislation on the Washington County pilot projects to the Second Regular Session of the 123rd Legislature. It also provides one-time funds for the Washington County Development Authority to be distributed through a request for proposal process.

LD 1955

An Act To Provide Emergency Regional Economic Development Assistance for Brunswick Naval Air Station

PUBLIC 650

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RICHARDSON J		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-980
-----------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------	--	------------------------------------

LD 1955 proposed to amend the Pine Tree Development Zone laws to provide eligibility for certain properties within commercial, industrial or military sites with a greater than 25% loss of employed workers over a 4-year period.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-980) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to provide for the creation of a military redevelopment zone that would allow a municipality within a labor market that contains a military facility scheduled for closure to apply to the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to become a military redevelopment zone. It also proposed to provide that the total area available for designation as a military redevelopment zone may not exceed 1,500 acres. Up to 500 acres may be available for designation outside a military facility boundary, as long as applications are received by the commissioner by August 1, 2011. This amendment also proposed to allow up to 1,000 acres to be reserved for property within the boundaries of the military base, as long as applications are received between the date of the military facility's closure and 7 years following the date of closure. This amendment also proposed to waive the labor market unemployment and wage restrictions for businesses located in a military redevelopment zone.