

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*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:**

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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](http://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*

**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
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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.

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

### ***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 2005, chapter 650 creates a military redevelopment zone that allows 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. The law provides that the total area available for designation as a military redevelopment zone may not exceed 1,500 acres. The law establishes that 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 and up to 1,000 acres may 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. Finally, the law also waives the labor market unemployment and wage restrictions for businesses located in a military redevelopment zone.

**LD 1957**

**An Act To Establish the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority**

**PUBLIC 599  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RICHARDSON J		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-981
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LD 1957 proposed to establish a redevelopment authority for Brunswick Naval Air Station.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-981)** proposed to require that a vacancy on the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term. In addition, the amendment proposed to require that bonds may not be issued by the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority until the authority has received a certificate of approval from the Finance Authority of Maine authorizing issuance of the bonds.

### ***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 2005, chapter 599 establishes a redevelopment authority for Brunswick Naval Air Station that is responsible for acquiring and managing the properties within the geographic boundaries of the Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Public Law 2005, chapter 599 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 27, 2006.

**LD 2047**

**An Act To Provide for the 2006 and 2007 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds**

**P & S 48  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BROMLEY SMITH N		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-510
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LD 2047 proposed to establish the allocations of the state ceiling on issuance of tax-exempt bonds for calendar years 2006 and 2007. Under federal law, a maximum of \$246,610,000 in tax-exempt bonds benefiting private