

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Legal and Veterans' Affairs*

July 2006

Members:

*Sen. Kenneth T. Gagnon, Chair
Sen. Elizabeth H. Mitchell
Sen. Debra D. Plowman*

*Rep. John L. Patrick, Chair
Rep. John L. Tuttle, Jr.
Rep. Charles D. Fisher
Rep. Linda M. Valentino
Rep. Randy E. Hotham
Rep. Richard B. Brown
Rep. Gary W. Moore*

*Rep. David N. Ott
Rep. Wright H. Pinkham, Sr.
Rep. Joan M. Nass
Rep. Frederick J. Moore, III*

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).

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 Legal and Veterans Affairs

LD 2029

**An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission
To Study Alternative Voting Procedures, the Citizen Initiative
Process and Minor Party Ballot Access**

PUBLIC 575

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
S-526

LD 2029 proposed changes to current law as proposed in the final report of the Commission to Study Alternative Voting Procedures, the Citizen Initiative Process and Minor Party Ballot Access as created in Resolve 2005, chapter 127. This bill would require payment to a person for circulating a petition for a direct initiative to be itemized on required campaign finance reports. This bill would clarify that contributions and expenditures made for the purpose of supporting or opposing a citizen-initiated referendum during the signature gathering phase are required to be reported like other contributions and expenditures. This bill would also require a report from the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices regarding the reporting of campaign finances relative to direct initiative campaigns. It would require a report from the Secretary of State examining ways to improve the way the State provides information to voters about referenda that will appear on the ballot. This bill also proposed to direct the Secretary of State to work with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices towards making information currently available about direct initiative efforts and campaigns for or against those direct initiatives or campaigns more accessible to the public by providing links on the Secretary of State's or commission's publicly accessible websites directing people to information posted on the other agency's website.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-526) proposed to add a section to the bill to require an applicant for a direct initiative or people's veto to provide a copy of the laws and rules governing the circulation of petitions for a direct initiative or people's veto to each person who will be circulating petitions.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 575 includes changes to current law as proposed in the final report of the Commission to Study Alternative Voting Procedures, the Citizen Initiative Process and Minor Party Ballot Access as created in Resolve 2005, chapter 127. It requires payment made to a person for circulating a petition for a direct initiative to be itemized on required campaign finance reports. This law clarifies that contributions and expenditures made for the purpose of supporting or opposing a citizen-initiated referendum during the signature gathering phase are required to be reported like other contributions and expenditures. It also requires a report from the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices regarding the reporting of campaign finances relative to direct initiative campaigns. It also requires a report from the Secretary of State examining ways to improve the way the State provides information to voters about referenda that will appear on the ballot. Chapter 575 directs the Secretary of State to work with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices towards making information currently available about direct initiative efforts and campaigns for or against those direct initiatives or campaigns more accessible to the public by providing links on the Secretary of State's or commission's publicly accessible websites directing people to information posted on the other agency's website.

Finally, chapter 575 requires an applicant for a direct initiative or people's veto to provide a copy of the laws and rules governing the circulation of petitions for a direct initiative or people's veto to each person who will be circulating petitions.