

Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

LD 85 **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$8,000,000 for Reconstruction, Renovations and Safety Improvements at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KERR MICHAUD		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 85 proposed a bond issue in the amount of \$8,000,000 that would have been used to reconstruct, renovate and make safety improvements to buildings and grounds at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

LD 537 **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$25,000,000 to Build 3 Regional Psychiatric Facilities** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRENNAN HARRIMAN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 537 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$25,000,000, that would have been used to construct 3 regional psychiatric facilities.

LD 791 **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$5,000,000 to Aid in the Construction of the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service on the Campus of the University of Southern Maine** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MITCHELL E LAWRENCE		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 791 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$5,000,000, that would have been used with the aid of equal matching funds from private and federal money to construct the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service on the campus of the University of Southern Maine.

LD 890

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of
Maine to Establish a Reserve Fund**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BENNETT	ONTP MAJ	
KERR	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 890 proposed to establish a General Fund reserve fund. The fund would have been used to cover actual or projected General Fund revenue shortfalls in any state fiscal year; for prepayment of outstanding General Fund bonds; for prepayment of any unfunded liabilities of the Maine State Retirement System related to state government employees or teachers; and for major construction projects exceeding \$1,000,000.

LD 1540

An Act to Establish a State Disaster Relief Trust Fund

**DIED BETWEEN
BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KERR	OTP-AM MAJ	
	ONTP MIN	

LD 1540 proposed to establish a disaster relief trust fund to be administered by the Maine Emergency Management Agency to match federal disaster assistance funds and provide other local disaster assistance. The trust fund would have been funded by a surcharge on homeowners' and business property insurance policies.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-846) proposed to strike those provisions of the bill that would have capitalized the Disaster Relief Trust Fund by imposing a surcharge on homeowners' and business property insurance policies. In its place are provisions that would have allowed the fund to receive General Fund appropriations, transfers from the General Fund at the end of a fiscal year in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 in any fiscal year, any federal money deposited in the fund and all interest earned on the fund's balance.

The amendment authorized the Disaster Relief Trust Fund to be the first resource utilized when the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 742, regarding emergency proclamation or Title 37-B, section 744, regarding disaster relief, is invoked by the Governor.

The amendment also added a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1658

**An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Implement a
Statewide Economic Improvement Strategy**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE	ONTP	
MITCHELL E		

LD 1658 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$17,000,000, that would have been used for major facilities improvements, construction and equipment purchases for research and development necessary to implement a statewide economic improvement strategy. These funds would have been used to support research and development

in 5 target areas: aquaculture and marine sciences, biotechnology, composite materials engineering, environmental technologies and information technologies. This investment would allow for the leveraging of substantial federal and private funds. Most of the money would have been spent in Maine on job creation, product development and for goods and services.

LD 1761 **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Make Necessary Improvements to the State House** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E MICHAUD	ONTP	

LD 1761 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$14,000,000, that would have been used to make major repairs and renovations to the State House.

LD 1810 **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$6,000,000 for Critical Marine Infrastructure and Technology Investments** **ONTP**

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

LD 1810 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$6,000,000, that would have been used for critical marine infrastructure and technology and proposed to allocate the funds by investing \$1,500,000 in Maine's ports and harbors and by utilizing \$4,500,000 to create a fund within the Maine Science and Technology Foundation.

LD 1811 **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$10,000,000 for Construction of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy** **ONTP**

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

LD 1811 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$10,000,000, that would have been used for the construction of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. A General Fund appropriation of \$10,000,000 was included in Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part AAA for the Maine Criminal Justice Academy for the renovation, construction and expansion of facilities at the Oak Grove Coburn campus.

LD 1812

An Act to Authorize Department of Transportation Bond Issues in the Amount of \$36,985,000 to Match Available Federal Funds for Improvements to Municipal and State Roads, Airports, State Ferry Vessels and Terminals, Transit Facilities and Equipment and Rail and Marine Facilities

P & S 82

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'GARA CLUKEY	OTP-AM	S-510

LD 1812 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$79,500,000, that would have been used for improvements to municipal and state roads, state and local bridges, airports, state ferry vessels and terminals and rail and marine facilities.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-510) lowered the principal amount to be requested of the voters from \$79,500,000 to \$36,985,000 and proposed to use the funds for improvements to municipal and state roads, airports, state ferry vessels and terminals, transit facilities and equipment and rail and marine facilities. The amendment changed the election at which the bond issue would be presented to the voters from the November 1998 statewide election to the June 1998 primary election.

Enacted law summary

Private & Special Law 1997, chapter 82 proposes a bond issue to be presented to the voters for approval at the June 1998 primary election. The bond issue, in the amount of \$36, 985,000 will be used for improvements to municipal and state roads, airports, state ferry vessels and terminals, transit facilities and equipment and rail and marine facilities.

LD 1829

An Act to Change the State's Fiscal Year from July 1st to October 1st

DIED BETWEEN BODIES

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINGREE KONTOS	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1829 proposed to change the State's current fiscal year, which runs from July 1st to June 30th, to one that runs from October 1st to September 30th, effective July 1, 1998. The bill also proposed to amend certain other laws to conform to the change in fiscal year; it required the Governor to submit a budget bill authorizing expenditures for the period between July 1, 1998 and October 1, 1998; and required the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to prepare proposed legislation that amended those sections of the Maine Revised Statutes or affected any other law necessary to conform to a state fiscal year that would commence on October 1st.

LD 1840

An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$25,000,000 for Development of the East-West Highway

DIED IN CONCURRENCE

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAXL J	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1840 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$25,000,000, that would have been used to study and develop the East-West Highway in the State of Maine.

LD 1911 An Act to Fund Internet Access for Visually and Physically Impaired Persons ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PENDLETON R PENDLETON P	ONTP	

LD 1911 proposed to provide funding for Internet access by the State's visually and physically impaired citizens who lack the mobility to attain access through libraries or schools.

LD 1948 An Act to Improve Management of Contracted Personnel Services Costs PUBLIC 618

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER MICHAUD	OTP-AM	H-845

LD 1948 proposed to require that the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services report to the Legislature on all temporary and contracted positions in State Government, including the duration and turnover of each position and the separate costs of each position, including wages, benefits, contract fees and administration costs.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-845) required the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to absorb the costs associated with reporting information related to all State Government temporary and contracted positions.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 618 requires the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to report to the Legislature on all temporary and contracted positions in State Government, including the duration and turnover of each position and the separate costs of each position, including wages, benefits, contract fees and administration costs.

LD 1950

An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government and Changes to Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1998 and June 30, 1999

PUBLIC 643

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KERR	OTP-AM MAJ	H-1098
MICHAUD	OTP-AM MIN	H-1109 KERR H-1111 TRIPP

LD 1950 proposed the following:

PART A:

1. Proposed supplemental appropriations from the General Fund;
2. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Highway Fund;
3. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Federal Expenditure Fund;
4. Proposed supplemental allocations from Other Special Revenue funds;
5. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Federal Block Grant Fund;
6. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Office of Information Services Fund;
7. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Workers' Compensation Management Fund;
8. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Real Property Lease Internal Service Fund;
9. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Island Ferry Services Fund;
10. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Alcoholic Beverage Fund; and
11. Proposed supplemental allocations from the State Lottery Fund.

PART B:

1. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes;
2. Proposed allocations from the Federal Expenditure Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes;
3. Proposed allocations from Other Special Revenue funds for approved reclassifications and range changes;
4. Proposed allocations from the Federal Block Grant Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes; and

5. Proposed allocations from the Office of Information Services Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART C:

Part C proposed appropriations from the General Fund as reductions to support approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART D:

1. Amended the law that lapses funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98;
2. Specified the General Purpose Aid actual education cost certification and appropriation level for fiscal year 1998-99 as required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15506; and
3. Lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1998-99.

PART E:

1. Amended the law to change the due date of the 4-year forecast of revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and the Highway Fund;
2. Amended the law to authorize a transfer from the Maine Rainy Day Fund for the settlement of a federal claim for the overpayment of retirement contributions;
3. Amended the law to allow for the increase of per diem expenses for the State Board of Property Tax Review;
4. Amended the law to authorize the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to sell or lease certain state properties;
5. Amended the law to authorize the Bureau of General Services to use the proceeds of the sale of state properties to pay for ongoing expenses related to the properties;
6. Repealed that portion of the law that authorizes the issuance of a tax anticipation note for fiscal year 1997-98;
7. Amended the law to allow the restructuring of the Bureau of Information Services rates to be applied to all affected funds;
8. Amended the law to authorize unencumbered balances in the Systems Project Account of the Bureau of Accounts and Control to carry forward to June 30, 1999;
9. Lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98;
10. Authorized the proceeds from the sale of any portion of the Pineland Complex to be used for the ongoing costs associated with the ownership of the facility;
11. Authorized the transfer of funds from the salary plan accounts for the purpose of meeting the cost of authorized market salary adjustments; and

12. Authorized the Bureau of Information Services in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to implement a pilot career-banding project in fiscal year 1998-99.

PART F:

1. Amended the law to specify that the Judicial Department must budget funds in future biennia to pay the Bureau of Revenue Services for services provided;
2. Established the Maine Revenue Services Fund as an Internal Service Fund;
3. Authorized the Bureau of Revenue Services Internal Services Fund to retain sufficient funds from Judicial Department collections to pay for services provided during the 1998-1999 biennium;
4. Authorized the Governor to transfer positions from the Bureau of Revenue Services General Fund account to the Maine Revenue Services Internal Service Fund account; and
5. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund to the Maine Revenue Services Fund as a working capital advance.

PART G:

1. Amended the law as it relates to the appointment of the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner;
2. Amended the law to authorize the salary of the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner to be set by the Chief Medical Examiner with the approval of the Governor; and
3. Amended the law to authorize the Chief Medical Examiner and the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner to establish a private practice.

PART H:

1. Amended the law to establish the Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands at pay range 89; and
2. Amended the law to correct the percentage distribution of revenues credited to the ATV Recreation Management Fund.

PART I:

1. Amended the law that authorizes the Adjutant General to sell certain armories;
2. Amended the law to remove the acreage restriction for the purchase of land for the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery; and
3. Authorized the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to establish positions for the Loring Rebuild Facility.

PART J:

Part J amended the law relating to the funds carried forward by the Office of the Public Advocate.

PART K:

Part K lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98.

PART L:

Part L amended the law to authorize certain toxic waste fees to continue.

PART M:

Part M amended the law to implement the recommendations of the Judicial Compensation Commission.

PART N:

1. Amended the law that specifies the distribution of year end balances in the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services;
2. Amended the law to correct program names; and
3. Established a process for the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to change the listing of positions to be eliminated at the Bangor Mental Health Institute.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1098), the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, removed the emergency preamble and emergency clause and proposed the following.

PART A:

1. Proposed supplemental appropriations from the General Fund;
2. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Highway Fund;
3. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Federal Expenditure Fund;
4. Proposed supplemental allocations from Other Special Revenue funds;
5. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Federal Block Grant Fund;
6. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Office of Information Services Fund;
7. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Workers' Compensation Management Fund;
8. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Real Property Lease Internal Service Fund;
9. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Island Ferry Services Fund;
10. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Alcoholic Beverage Fund; and
11. Proposed supplemental allocations from the State Lottery Fund.

PART B:

1. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes;
2. Proposed allocations from the Federal Expenditure Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes;
3. Proposed allocations from Other Special Revenue funds for approved reclassifications and range changes;
4. Proposed allocations from the Federal Block Grant Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes; and
5. Proposed allocations from the Office of Information Services Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART C:

This Part proposed appropriations from the General Fund as reductions to support approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART D:

1. It specified the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools actual education cost certification and appropriation levels for fiscal year 1998-99 as required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15605.
2. It established the method to distribute the 1998-99 hardship cushion.
3. It changed the calculation to establish a school administrative unit's weighted relative fiscal capacity.
4. It repealed the provisions that limit the Commissioner of Education's recommended school subsidy level and the amount appropriated by the Legislature for school subsidy to 105% of the appropriation of the previous fiscal year. In its place would be a requirement that specified that the appropriation request for General Purpose Aid for Local Schools be "flat funded" in the current services budget bill, Part 1, for the next biennium. Any additional appropriations would be requested in a supplemental appropriations budget bill, Part 2.
5. It required that the fiscal year 1998-99 General Purpose Aid for Local Schools funding level be reduced by \$16,660,478 for the purpose of calculating the recommended funding level for the 2000-2001 biennium.
6. It lapsed available balances in the Education in the Unorganized Territory account to the General Fund in fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99.
7. It increased the adult education subsidy in fiscal year 1998-99 by an additional 2%.
8. It lapsed construction aid recoveries to the General Fund and deappropriates funds in fiscal year 1997-98 from General Purpose Aid for Local Schools to offset appropriations for services for preschool handicapped children.
9. It provided a General Fund appropriation to the State Board of Education for additional research and technical assistance needs of the Essential Programs and Services Study Committee. It also provided \$75,000 to the Legislature for the Education Research Institute to increase funding for targeted research needs. Finally, the

amendment deappropriated \$100,000 from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to offset these costs.

PART E:

1. This Part amended the law to increase the "cap" of the Maine Rainy Day Fund to 5% and allowed the State Controller to transfer certain funds from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Rainy Day Fund without an appropriation.
2. This Part amended the law to authorize a transfer from the Maine Rainy Day Fund for the settlement of a federal claim for the overpayment of retirement contributions.
3. This Part amended the law to change the due date of the 4-year forecast of revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and the Highway Fund.
4. This Part amended the law to allow for the increase of per diem expenses for the State Board of Property Tax Review.
5. This Part repealed that portion of the law that authorizes the issuance of a tax anticipation note for fiscal year 1997-98.
6. This Part amended the law to allow the restructuring of the Bureau of Information Services rates to be applied to all affected funds.
7. This Part lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98.
8. This Part authorized the transfer of funds from the salary plan accounts for the purpose of meeting the cost of authorized market salary adjustments.
9. This Part authorized the Bureau of Information Services in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to implement a pilot career-banding project in fiscal year 1998-99.
10. This Part authorized the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into lease-purchase arrangements to acquire vehicles for the Central Motor Pool.
11. This Part established that certain revenue reprojections for fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99 will not increase funds for the Maine Rainy Day Fund, the Retirement Allowance Fund and the Property Tax Relief Fund.

PART F:

1. Amended the law to specify that the Judicial Department must budget funds in future biennia to pay the Bureau of Revenue Services for services provided;
2. Established the Revenue Services Fund as an Internal Service Fund;
3. Authorized the Bureau of Revenue Services, Internal Services Fund account to retain sufficient funds from Judicial Department collections to pay for services provided during the 1998-1999 biennium;

4. Authorized the Governor to transfer positions from the Bureau of Revenue Services General Fund account to the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund, Internal Services Fund account; and
5. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund to the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund as a working capital advance.

PART G:

1. Amended the law to authorize the salary of the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner to be set in salary range 56 of the Standard Salary Schedule for Medical Personnel as published by the Bureau of Human Resources.

PART H:

1. Amended the law to establish the Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands at pay range 89; and
2. Amended the law to correct the percentage distribution of revenues credited to the ATV Recreational Management Fund.

PART I:

This Part authorized the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to establish positions for the Loring Rebuild Facility.

PART J:

This Part amended the law relating to the funds carried forward by the Office of the Public Advocate.

PART K:

This Part lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98.

Public Law 1997, chapter 24, Part I, section 13 authorized the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to achieve at least \$240,000 in "Personal Services" savings during each fiscal year of the 1998-1999 biennium. This Part would have allowed the department to achieve \$480,000 in "Personal Services" savings over the 1998-1999 biennium.

PART L:

This Part amended the law to authorize certain toxic waste fees to continue.

PART M:

This Part reduced the salary increases for judges and justices from those recommended by the Judicial Compensation Commission. It delayed any cost-of-living adjustment until July 1, 1999. It avoided any unfunded liability for the judicial retirement system by establishing a "blended cap" on retirement benefits, applying the 70% cap to only the service credit earned on or after July 1, 1998.

PART N:

1. Amended the law that specifies the distribution of year end balances in the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services;
2. Amended the law to correct program names;
3. Established a process for the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to change the listing of positions to be eliminated at the Bangor Mental Health Institute;
4. Authorized the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to include in its base budget costs associated with operating a hospital outpatient dental clinic in Aroostook County;
5. Required consolidation of certain units at the Bangor Mental Health Institute; and
6. Required strategic plans related to the Bangor Mental Health Institute.

PART O:

This Part authorized that General Fund appropriations for the Welfare to Work program in the Department of Labor are nonlapsing through June 30, 1999.

PART P:

This Part authorized that funds received by the State from the Maine State Employees Association as reimbursement for the union related activities of the current president of the association may be deposited as revenue to the Probation and Parole, Other Special Revenue account in the Department Corrections and may be used for acting capacity positions for the duration of the term of the current president in the 1998-1999 biennium.

PART Q:

This Part increased the salary grade of the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and upgraded the Director of the Military Bureau to a Deputy Commissioner who serves at the pleasure of the commissioner.

PART R:

This Part reduced the amortization period for the unfunded actuarial liability of the Maine State Retirement System as of July 1, 1998 from the remaining 30 years of a 35-year period to a 25-year period.

PART S:

This Part transferred, then appropriated, funds from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund for a number of purposes.

PART T:

This Part implemented the following changes to the Maine Revised Statutes, effective June 30, 1999.

1. It repealed the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents.

2. It repealed the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund.
3. It authorized any unencumbered balance in either fund to lapse to the General Fund.

PART U:

This Part allowed state departments and agencies to accept payment for goods and services by major credit cards.

PART V:

Public Law 1991, chapter 121, Part A, section 7 required that all state departments, agencies and offices be closed on May 10, 1991 and May 24, 1991. All state employees, even those "essential employees" who were required to work on those days, were not compensated for those days or, for some employees who worked alternative work schedules, were not compensated for two other days during the affected pay cycles. The law specified that those state employees were to be compensated for the two "closed" days when they left state service.

This Part provided authority for those affected state employees who remain in state service to be paid for those 2 days in fiscal year 1997-98 rather than when they leave state service. It provides a General Fund appropriation for the cost of General Fund employees. It also provided a General Fund appropriation for the cost of Highway Fund employees. Lastly, it authorized the State Budget Officer to adjust allotments in accounts in other funding sources so that state employees in those accounts would be paid as well.

PART W:

This Part added the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs to the list of the recipients of the various reports of the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission.

PART X:

Public Law 1997, chapter 24, Part S, section 1 authorized the use of \$2,100,000 from available balances at the end of fiscal year 1996-97 to be used to meet the actuarial and accumulated interest costs for 8 school administrative units.

Given that additional interest costs continued to accrue beyond the original date of settlement, that is, July 1, 1997, an additional amount of approximately \$50,000 is needed to settle all costs. This Part authorized the Maine State Retirement System to use the first sums transferred or appropriated to the Retirement Allowance Fund established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 to finally settle the cost of these early retirement incentives.

PART Y:

This Part eliminated the current prohibition on establishing most positions administratively. Agencies of State Government would be able to create limited period or other temporary positions by financial order if the position established had an end date not to exceed the statutory adjournment date of the next regular session of the Legislature.

PART Z:

This Part provided a supplemental General Fund appropriation of \$15,000 to the St. Croix International Waterway Commission. The current appropriation is \$10,000 in fiscal year 1997-98 and fiscal year 1998-99.

PART AA:

This Part provided clarifying language that specifies that oil pipelines and other oil off-loading facilities are limited to sites in Portland and Searsport harbors.

This Part established a statewide transportation infrastructure strategy for funds repaid to the Maine Port Authority for the redevelopment of Mack Point.

This Part provided nonlapsing language for a General Fund appropriation that provides funds to develop a cargo port at Mack Point.

This Part allocated funds from the sale of steel to be used for the development of a cargo port at Mack Point.

PART BB:

This Part directed the Department of Transportation to study several aspects related to the development of a west-east highway. It also clarified that this project will neither detract from nor diminish the commitment of the Department of Transportation or the State to the maintenance and upkeep of existing roadways.

This Part required the State Planning Office, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Economic and Community Development to study a number of economic issues associated with the development of a west-east highway.

PART CC:

This Part provided for several economic development initiatives.

PART DD:

This Part authorized the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue up to \$5,500,000 in securities.

PART EE:

This Part amended that provision in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4 that allows the General Fund to receive 20% of the nondesignated Alternative Dispute Resolution Services resources. The Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Service Fund would be allowed to retain all of those resources in order to meet the costs of providing ADR services.

PART FF:

This Part provided funds for information technology, capital equipment and facility improvements to the Maine Technical College System.

PART GG:

This Part provided a \$100,000 General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 1997-98 to assist the University of Maine at Fort Kent in constructing and relocating a facility for forestry and environmental programs. It also clarified the location and lease provisions associated with the facility.

PART HH:

This Part provided for an increase in the maximum grant size in the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program from \$500 to \$1,000 for students attending public institutions of higher education and prohibited the institution from reducing grant aid to the student as a result of the receipt of the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Grant.

This Part repealed the requirement that grants to private institutions of higher education must be 2 times the amount of grants to public institutions of higher education.

This Part added an appropriation of \$4,000,000 to the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program.

PART II:

This Part directed the Department of Human Services to recommend programmatic and financial divisions within the Medical Care - Payments to Providers program to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs no later than January 8, 1999.

PART JJ:

This Part provided supplemental funding for adult day care, Alzheimer's respite and the consumer-directed home based care program within the Department of Labor.

PART KK:

This Part repealed Public Law 1997, chapter 560, Part F. The Part, comprised of 3 sections, established a "Health Care Fund for Maine Citizens," funding for which would come from any award or settlement received by the State from a tobacco company pursuant to an action brought by the State against cigarette manufacturers. Absent this language, any award or settlement received by the State will be deposited in the General Fund.

PART LL:

This Part authorized the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 to the University of Maine System toward the Maine Economic Improvement Strategy at the end of fiscal year 1997-98.

PART MM:

This Part deleted that provision that allowed the Federal-State Inspection Fund to retain all interest earnings in fiscal year 1997-98 only.

PART NN:

This Part repealed those provisions from Public Law 1995, chapter 502, Part C that unclassified certain positions at the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. It also provided authorization for the establishment of another Deputy Commissioner position within the Department of Marine Resources.

PART OO:

This Part provided a General Fund appropriation to the Department of Education's Retired Teachers' Health Insurance account in order to increase the State's share of retired educators' health insurance premiums to 30% on January 1, 1999.

PART PP:

This Part implemented collective bargaining agreements for certain employees within the Judicial Department.

PART QQ:

This Part revised the statutes to provide expenses to members of the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board. It required each island municipality to appoint one alternate member to the board.

This Part also provided the Department of Transportation with an Island Ferry Service Fund allocation of \$5,000 in fiscal year 1997-98 and \$20,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 to cover the expenses of the members of the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board.

PART RR:

This Part provided the Department of Human Services with a \$2,000,000 appropriation to include additional medications to be determined by the department to the elderly low-cost drug program. It directed the department to pursue a Medicaid waiver to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits.

PART SS:

This Part required the Department of Corrections and the Department of Education to review all educational programs at the Maine Youth Center and to prepare a school approval corrective action plan.

PART TT:

This Part required the Department of Corrections and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to review all mental health programs within state-operated juvenile correctional facilities and to prepare a mental health action plan.

PART UU:

This Part articulated the intent of the Legislature to reduce the General Fund subsidy to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in the 2000-2001 biennium and directed the director of the academy to develop a plan to reduce the academy's reliance on the General Fund.

PART VV:

This Part authorized a 5% increase in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits for certain recipients. It also required the Department of Human Services to seek reimbursement under Medicaid for certain targeted case management expenditures.

PART WW:

As a result of passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, many immigrants who are legally residing in the United States will no longer be eligible for assistance from the federal supplemental security income program. This Part provided state assistance to aged, blind and disabled legal immigrants who will no longer be eligible for assistance from the federal supplemental security income program.

PART XX:

This Part implemented the recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities. It required homeless shelter operators, mental health providers, substance abuse services providers and Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services regional housing coordinators to prepare plans to ensure that persons with mental illness or substance abuse problems, or both, who are in homeless shelters are provided with services for mental health and substance abuse problems. The Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and the Maine State Housing Authority were directed to provide training for mental health, substance abuse services and homeless shelter providers. It increased funding for the shelter operating subsidy fund in the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund.

PART YY:

This Part established the Lakes Assessment and Protection Program within the Department of Environmental Protection. In implementing the program, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection would conduct activities including education and technical assistance, resource monitoring and research and compliance monitoring and enforcement. In establishing priorities for these activities, the commissioner would consider the recommendations of the Great Pond Task Force and the priorities established by the Land and Water Resources Council.

The Part also appropriated \$451,516 from the General Fund to provide funds for 4 positions and support costs to carry out the Lakes Assessment and Protection Program.

PART ZZ:

This Part required a \$125,000 payment from the Risk Management Fund to Dan Corey and Nu Seed Corporation in settlement of losses suffered as a result of the decertification of the 1996 seed potato crop.

PART AAA:

This Part established and provided money to the Capital Construction and Improvements Reserve Fund.

PART BBB:

This Part provided funding to replace lost federal school-to-work funds, thereby preventing the shutdown of 14 school sites and the elimination of dropout prevention, dropout recovery and school-to-work or college transition services to 580 Maine students.

PART CCC:

This Part enabled the Maine Technical College System to continue to provide a statewide work-based learning program for Maine's youth by appropriating money to continue the Maine Career Advantage Program. This appropriation would allow the program to retain its current level of services throughout the State.

PART DDD:

This Part included a General Fund appropriation of \$425,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 to expand the activities of the Maine apprenticeship program. It also included a deallocation of federal funds that is necessary to reflect the increased General Fund commitment.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-1099), the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, removed the emergency preamble and emergency clause and proposed the following.

PART A:

1. Proposed supplemental appropriations from the General Fund;
2. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Highway Fund;
3. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Federal Expenditure Fund;
4. Proposed supplemental allocations from Other Special Revenue funds;
5. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Federal Block Grant Fund;
6. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Office of Information Services Fund;
7. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Workers' Compensation Management Fund;
8. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Real Property Lease Internal Service Fund;
9. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Island Ferry Services Fund;
10. Proposed supplemental allocations from the Alcoholic Beverage Fund; and
11. Proposed supplemental allocations from the State Lottery Fund.

PART B:

1. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes;
2. Proposed allocations from the Federal Expenditure Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes;

3. Proposed allocations from Other Special Revenue funds for approved reclassifications and range changes;
4. Proposed allocations from the Federal Block Grant Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes; and
5. Proposed allocations from the Office of Information Services Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART C:

This Part proposed appropriations from the General Fund as reductions to support approved reclassifications and range changes.

PART D:

1. It specified the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools actual education cost certification and appropriation levels for fiscal year 1998-99 as required by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 15605.
2. It established the method to distribute the 1998-99 hardship cushion.
3. It changed the calculation to establish a school administrative unit's weighted relative fiscal capacity.
4. It repealed the provisions that limit the Commissioner of Education's recommended school subsidy level and the amount appropriated by the Legislature for school subsidy to 105% of the appropriation of the previous fiscal year. In its place would be a requirement that specified that the appropriation request for General Purpose Aid for Local Schools be "flat funded" in the current services budget bill, Part 1, for the next biennium. Any additional appropriations would be requested in a supplemental appropriations budget bill, Part 2.
5. It required that the fiscal year 1998-99 General Purpose Aid for Local Schools funding level be reduced by \$16,660,478 for the purpose of calculating the recommended funding level for the 2000-2001 biennium.
6. It lapsed available balances in the Education in the Unorganized Territory account to the General Fund in fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99.
7. It increased the adult education subsidy in fiscal year 1998-99 by an additional 2%.
8. It lapsed construction aid recoveries to the General Fund and deappropriates funds in fiscal year 1997-98 from General Purpose Aid for Local Schools to offset appropriations for services for preschool handicapped children.
9. It provided a General Fund appropriation to the State Board of Education for additional research and technical assistance needs of the Essential Programs and Services Study Committee. It also provided \$75,000 to the Legislature for the Education Research Institute to increase funding for targeted research needs. Finally, the amendment deappropriated \$100,000 from the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools program to offset these costs.

PART E:

1. This Part amended the law to increase the "cap" of the Maine Rainy Day Fund to 5% and allowed the State Controller to transfer certain funds from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Rainy Day Fund without an appropriation.

2. This Part amended the law to authorize a transfer from the Maine Rainy Day Fund for the settlement of a federal claim for the overpayment of retirement contributions.
3. This Part amended the law to change the due date of the 4-year forecast of revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and the Highway Fund.
4. This Part amended the law to allow for the increase of per diem expenses for the State Board of Property Tax Review.
5. This Part repealed that portion of the law that authorizes the issuance of a tax anticipation note for fiscal year 1997-98.
6. This Part amended the law to allow the restructuring of the Bureau of Information Services rates to be applied to all affected funds.
7. This Part lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98.
8. This Part authorized the transfer of funds from the salary plan accounts for the purpose of meeting the cost of authorized market salary adjustments.
9. This Part authorized the Bureau of Information Services in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to implement a pilot career-banding project in fiscal year 1998-99.
10. This Part authorized the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to enter into lease-purchase arrangements to acquire vehicles for the Central Motor Pool.
11. This Part established that certain revenue rejections for fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99 will not increase funds for the Maine Rainy Day Fund, the Retirement Allowance Fund and the Property Tax Relief Fund.

PART F:

1. Amended the law to specify that the Judicial Department must budget funds in future biennia to pay the Bureau of Revenue Services for services provided;
2. Established the Revenue Services Fund as an Internal Service Fund;
3. Authorized the Bureau of Revenue Services, Internal Services Fund account to retain sufficient funds from Judicial Department collections to pay for services provided during the 1998-1999 biennium;
4. Authorized the Governor to transfer positions from the Bureau of Revenue Services General Fund account to the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund, Internal Services Fund account; and
5. Proposed appropriations from the General Fund to the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund as a working capital advance.

PART G:

1. Amended the law to establish the Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands at pay range 89; and

2. Amended the law to correct the percentage distribution of revenues credited to the ATV Recreational Management Fund.

PART H:

This Part authorized the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to establish positions for the Loring Rebuild Facility.

PART I:

This Part amended the law relating to the funds carried forward by the Office of the Public Advocate.

PART J:

This Part lapsed funds to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98.

Public Law 1997, chapter 24, Part I, section 13 authorized the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to achieve at least \$240,000 in "Personal Services" savings during each fiscal year of the 1998-1999 biennium. This Part would have allowed the department to achieve \$480,000 in "Personal Services" savings over the 1998-1999 biennium.

PART K:

This Part reduced the salary increases for judges and justices from those recommended by the Judicial Compensation Commission. It delayed any cost-of-living adjustment until July 1, 1999. It avoided any unfunded liability for the judicial retirement system by establishing a "blended cap" on retirement benefits, applying the 70% cap to only the service credit earned on or after July 1, 1998.

PART L:

1. Amended the law that specifies the distribution of year end balances in the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services;
2. Amended the law to correct program names;
3. Established a process for the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to change the listing of positions to be eliminated at the Bangor Mental Health Institute; and
4. Authorized the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to include in its base budget costs associated with operating a hospital outpatient dental clinic in Aroostook County.

PART M:

This Part authorized that General Fund appropriations for the Welfare to Work program in the Department of Labor are nonlapsing through June 30, 1999.

PART N:

This Part authorized that funds received by the State from the Maine State Employees Association as reimbursement for the union related activities of the current president of the association may be deposited as revenue to the Probation and Parole, Other Special Revenue account in the Department Corrections and may be used for acting capacity positions for the duration of the term of the current president in the 1998-1999 biennium.

PART O:

This Part increased the salary grade of the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and upgraded the Director of the Military Bureau to a Deputy Commissioner who would serve at the pleasure of the commissioner.

PART P:

This Part reduced the amortization period for the unfunded actuarial liability of the Maine State Retirement System as of July 1, 1998 from the remaining 30 years of a 35-year period to a 25-year period.

PART Q:

This Part transferred, then appropriated, funds from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund for a number of purposes.

PART R:

This Part implemented the following changes to the Maine Revised Statutes, effective June 30, 1999.

1. It repealed the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents.
2. It repealed the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund.
3. It authorized any unencumbered balance in either fund to lapse to the General Fund.

PART S:

This Part allowed state departments and agencies to accept payment for goods and services by major credit cards.

PART T:

Public Law 1991, chapter 121, Part A, section 7 required that all state departments, agencies and offices be closed on May 10, 1991 and May 24, 1991. All state employees, even those "essential employees" who were required to work on those days, were not compensated for those days or, for some employees who worked alternative work schedules, were not compensated for two other days during the affected pay cycles. The law specified that those state employees were to be compensated for the two "closed" days when they left state service.

This Part provided authority for those affected state employees who remain in state service to be paid for those 2 days in fiscal year 1997-98 rather than when they leave state service. It provided a General Fund appropriation for the cost of General Fund employees. It also provided a General Fund appropriation for the cost of Highway Fund employees. Lastly, it authorized the State Budget Officer to adjust allotments in accounts in other funding sources so that state employees in those accounts would be paid as well.

PART U:

This Part added the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs to the list of the recipients of the various reports of the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission.

PART V:

Public Law 1997, chapter 24, Part S, section 1 authorized the use of \$2,100,000 from available balances at the end of fiscal year 1996-97 to be used to meet the actuarial and accumulated interest costs for 8 school administrative units.

Given that additional interest costs continued to accrue beyond the original date of settlement, that is, July 1, 1997, an additional amount of approximately \$50,000 is needed to settle all costs. This Part authorized the Maine State Retirement System to use the first sums transferred or appropriated to the Retirement Allowance Fund established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5 to finally settle the cost of these early retirement incentives.

PART W:

This Part eliminated the current prohibition on establishing most positions administratively. Agencies of State Government would be able to create limited period or other temporary positions by financial order if the position established has an end date not to exceed the statutory adjournment date of the next regular session of the Legislature.

This Part also eliminated any 52-week position authorized by the Legislature that has been vacant for 6 months or longer as of the effective date of this Act. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services would be authorized to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over administrative and financial affairs on the number of positions eliminated and also authorized to submit legislation deappropriating or deallocating available savings.

PART X:

This Part provided a supplemental General Fund appropriation of \$15,000 to the St. Croix International Waterway Commission. The current appropriation is \$10,000 in fiscal year 1997-98 and fiscal year 1998-99.

PART Y:

This Part provided clarifying language that specifies that oil pipelines and other oil off-loading facilities are limited to sites in Portland and Searsport harbors.

This Part established a statewide transportation infrastructure strategy for funds repaid to the Maine Port Authority for the redevelopment of Mack Point.

This Part provided nonlapsing language for a General Fund appropriation that provides funds to develop a cargo port at Mack Point.

This Part allocated funds from the sale of steel to be used for the development of a cargo port at Mack Point.

PART Z:

This Part directed the Department of Transportation to study several aspects related to the development of a west-east highway. It also clarified that this project will neither detract from nor diminish the commitment of the Department of Transportation or the State to the maintenance and upkeep of existing roadways.

This Part required the State Planning Office, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Economic and Community Development to study a number of economic issues associated with the development of a west-east highway.

PART AA:

This Part provided for several economic development initiatives.

PART BB:

This Part authorized the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue up to \$5,500,000 in securities.

PART CC:

This Part amended that provision in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4 that allows the General Fund to receive 20% of the nondesignated Alternative Dispute Resolution Services resources. The Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Service Fund would be allowed to retain all of those resources in order to meet the costs of providing ADR services.

PART DD:

This Part directed the Department of Human Services to recommend programmatic and financial divisions within the Medical Care - Payments to Providers program to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over appropriations and financial affairs no later than January 8, 1999.

PART EE:

This Part repealed Public Law 1997, chapter 560, Part F. The Part, comprised of 3 sections, established a "Health Care Fund for Maine Citizens," funding for which would come from any award or settlement received by the State from a tobacco company pursuant to an action brought by the State against cigarette manufacturers. Absent this language, any award or settlement received by the State will be deposited in the General Fund.

PART FF:

This Part authorized the transfer of an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000 to the University of Maine System toward the Maine Economic Improvement Strategy at the end of fiscal year 1997-98. It also authorized the University of Maine System to include \$4,000,000 as part of their "current services" request to the Governor and Legislature in the 2000-2001 biennium.

PART GG:

This Part deleted that provision that allowed the Federal-State Inspection Fund to retain all interest earnings in fiscal year 1997-98 only.

PART HH:

This Part repealed those provisions from Public Law 1995, chapter 502, Part C that unclassified certain positions at the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

PART II:

This Part implemented collective bargaining agreements for certain employees within the Judicial Department.

PART JJ:

This Part revised the statutes to provide expenses to members of the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board. It required each island municipality to appoint one alternate member to the board.

This Part also provided the Department of Transportation with an Island Ferry Service Fund allocation of \$5,000 in fiscal year 1997-98 and \$20,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 to cover the expenses of the members of the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board.

PART KK:

This Part articulated the intent of the Legislature to reduce the General Fund subsidy to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in the 2000-2001 biennium and directed the director of the academy to develop a plan to reduce the academy's reliance on the General Fund.

PART LL:

This Part required the Department of Human Services to seek reimbursement under Medicaid for certain targeted case management expenditures.

PART MM:

This Part required a \$125,000 payment from the Risk Management Fund to Dan Corey and Nu Seed Corporation in settlement of losses suffered as a result of the decertification of the 1996 seed potato crop.

PART NN:

This Part established and provided money to the Capital Construction and Improvements Reserve Fund.

PART OO:

This Part repealed the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but left intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax.

This Part also expanded the individual income tax 7% bracket for all categories of filers by raising the Maine taxable income that applied to that bracket and the 8.5% bracket.

This Part also increased the individual income tax personal exemption in a 2-step process in an attempt to conform with the federal individual income tax personal exemption.

This Part also expanded the low-income tax credit originally established in Public Law 1997, chapter 557, Part E, section 1.

PART PP:

This Part provided \$2,000,000 to the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation to assist with the corporation's federally mandated conversion to digital broadcasting.

PART QQ:

This Part appropriated funds for the acquisition of land to be targeted for recreational, scenic, natural or wildlife values in accordance with criteria developed by the Land for Maine's Future Board.

PART RR:

This Part required the closing of all state liquor stores by October 1, 1998.

PART SS:

This Part provided General Fund appropriations to the Department of Environmental Protection to construct water pollution control facilities. These funds would provide the state match for \$10,000,000 in federal funds. It also provided a \$3,000,000 appropriation to the Department of Human Services to address environmental deficiencies in public water supplies, providing the state match for \$15,000,000 in federal funds.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1102) provided funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.

House Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1103) added a new Part that required the closing of all state liquor stores by October 1, 1998.

House Amendment "C" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1104) removed the Part from Committee Amendment "A" that provided a \$100,000 General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 1997-98 to assist the University of Maine at Fort Kent in constructing and relocating a facility for forestry and environmental programs, and clarified the location and lease provisions associated with the facility.

House Amendment "D" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1108) appropriated funds from the Maine Rainy Day Fund for the acquisition of land to be targeted for recreational, scenic, natural or wildlife values in accordance with criteria developed by the Land for Maine's Future Board.

House Amendment "E" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1109) took \$5,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund and provided \$2,000,000 to the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation to assist with the corporation's federally mandated conversion to digital broadcasting and \$3,000,000 for the acquisition of land to be targeted for recreational, scenic, natural or wildlife values in accordance with criteria developed by the Land for Maine's Future Board.

House Amendment "F" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1110) transferred \$1,500,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund for General Purpose Aid to Local Schools for out-of-district placements.

House Amendment "G" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1111) provided that the personal exemption amount for Maine's individual income tax is increased to \$2,400 for tax years beginning in 1998 and \$2,750 for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1999.

The amendment provided an equalized homestead property tax exemption of \$7,000 for Maine residents. The homestead property tax exemption is administered on the local level with the State reimbursing municipalities for 100% of the taxes lost and 90% of the local administrative costs. Municipal property tax bills would have to identify the exemption and the amount of property tax reduction.

The amendment increased benefits for renters under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program by increasing the percentage of rent constituting property taxes accrued for a nonelderly household from 15% to 18% of rent paid.

The amendment provided required appropriations and a fiscal note.

House Amendment "H" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1112) removed the 5% cost-of-living adjustment to certain Temporary Assistance for Needy Family recipients.

House Amendment "I" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1113) struck out that part of Committee Amendment "B" that authorized the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue up to \$5,500,000 in securities.

House Amendment "J" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1114) repealed the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but left intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax.

This amendment also expanded the individual income tax 7% bracket for all categories of filers by raising the Maine taxable income that applied to that bracket and the 8.5% bracket.

This amendment also increased the individual income tax personal exemption in a 2-step process in an attempt to conform with the federal individual income tax personal exemption.

This amendment also expanded the low-income tax credit originally established in Public Law 1997, chapter 557, Part E, section 1.

This amendment funded the repeal of the snack tax, the expansion of the 7% tax bracket and the increase in the personal exemption and low-income tax credit with funding from the Maine Rainy Day Fund.

House Amendment "J" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1115) added a new Part that repeals the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but leaves intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax. This amendment funds the repeal of the snack tax by transferring funds from the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund and the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents.

House Amendment "K" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1116) transfers the funding necessary for this amendment from the Maine Rainy Day Fund.

Under current law, certain state employees, including state police officers, hired after August 31, 1984 are eligible for retirement benefits upon the completion of 25 years of creditable service and attainment of 55 years of age.

Certain state employees hired before September 1, 1984 are eligible for retirement benefits upon the completion of 20 years of creditable service, with no age restrictions.

This amendment changed the cutoff date for eligibility of retirement benefits after 20 years of creditable service for state police officers to September 16, 1984. The purpose of this amendment was to give members of the Maine State Police 38th Training Troop the same benefits that were available when applications were being accepted for that class. Members of the 38th Training Troop were well through the application process but were not officially hired until September 3, 1984, 2 days after the law imposing the new 25 years of service and 55 years of age requirement took effect.

This amendment also provided that the Maine State Retirement System retirement benefit of Maine State Police Sergeant David McPherson must be calculated under the requirements of the so-called "25/50 special retirement plan" that Sergeant McPherson was covered by when he began law enforcement service as a forest ranger.

House Amendment "L" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1117) added a new Part EEE to Committee Amendment "A" to provide funds to assist the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation with the federally mandated conversion to digital broadcasting.

House Amendment "M" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1119) removed authorization for 2 new positions in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, a Management Analyst II position and an Accountant III position.

House Amendment "N" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1120) removed funding to expand the civil rights team project that was included in Part A, section 3 of Committee Amendment "A."

House Amendment "O" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1121) deappropriated \$15,000,000 from General Purpose Aid for Local Schools and provided funds for 3,000 scholarships of \$5,000 each for child-centered education.

House Amendment "P" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1124) removed the authority of the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to undertake renovation of the State Office Building.

House Amendment "Q" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1125) removed the funding to expand the shelter-operating subsidy within the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund and appropriated funds for tax relief.

House Amendment "R" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1126) removed one-time funding for business attraction and expansion marketing efforts and provided additional funds for the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents.

House Amendment "S" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1127) removed authorization for a Real Property Manager position in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-646) required all individual and group contracts of nonprofit hospital and medical services, insurers and health maintenance organizations to provide insurance coverage for prostate cancer screening. Coverage for prostate cancer screening would be provided annually to men 50 years of age or older until a man reaches the age of 72 if the procedures are recommended by a physician.

The amendment added an exception to the requirement that health insurance contracts provide coverage for prostate cancer screening that includes accidental injury, specified disease, hospital indemnity, Medicare supplement, long-term care and other limited benefit health insurance policies and contracts.

The amendment applied to all policies and contracts in effect on or after September 1, 1998.

Senate Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-647) transferred \$5,500,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund.

Senate Amendment "C" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-648) added a new Part that requires the closing of all state liquor stores by October 1, 1998.

Senate Amendment "D" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-649) removed the Part from Committee Amendment "A" that provided a \$100,000 General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 1997-98 to assist the University of Maine at Fort Kent in constructing and relocating a facility for forestry and environmental programs, and clarified the location and lease provisions associated with the facility.

Senate Amendment "E" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-650) eliminated any 52-week position authorized by the Legislature that has been vacant for 6 months or longer as of the effective date of this Act. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services would submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over administrative and financial affairs on the number of positions eliminated and would also submit legislation deappropriating or deallocating available savings.

Senate Amendment "F" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-651) reduced the appropriation to the Maine Technical College System for information technology, capital equipment and facility improvement to \$1,600,000.

This amendment removed the provision in Committee Amendment "A" that provided \$100,000 to construct a facility at the University of Maine at Fort Kent for forestry and environmental programs.

This amendment struck the provision in Committee Amendment "A" that increased the maximum grant in the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program from \$500 to \$1,000.

Finally, this amendment provided an appropriation to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund of \$5,500,000 to fund scientific research and related commercial development.

Senate Amendment "G" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-652) transferred \$1,500,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund for General Purpose Aid to Local Schools for out-of-district placements.

Senate Amendment "H" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-654) provided funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.

Senate Amendment "I" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-655) added a new Part EEE to Committee Amendment "A" to provide funds to assist the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation with the federally mandated conversion to digital broadcasting.

Senate Amendment "J" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-656) repealed the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but left intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax.

This amendment also expanded the individual income tax 7% bracket for all categories of filers by raising the Maine taxable income that applies to that bracket and the 8.5% bracket.

This amendment also increased the individual income tax personal exemption in a 2-step process in an attempt to conform with the federal individual income tax personal exemption.

This amendment also expanded the low-income tax credit originally established in Public Law 1997, chapter 557, Part E, section 1.

This amendment funded the repeal of the snack tax, the expansion of the 7% tax bracket and the increase in the personal exemption and low-income tax credit with funding from the Maine Rainy Day Fund.

Senate Amendment "K" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-657) transferred the funding necessary for this amendment from the Maine Rainy Day Fund.

Under current law, certain state employees, including state police officers, hired after August 31, 1984 are eligible for retirement benefits upon the completion of 25 years of creditable service and attainment of 55 years of age. Certain state employees hired before September 1, 1984 are eligible for retirement benefits upon the completion of 20 years of creditable service, with no age restrictions.

This amendment changed the cutoff date for eligibility of retirement benefits after 20 years of creditable service for state police officers to September 16, 1984. The purpose of this amendment was to give members of the Maine State Police 38th Training Troop the same benefits that were available when applications were being accepted for that class. Members of the 38th Training Troop were well through the application process but were not officially hired until September 3, 1984, 2 days after the law imposing the new 25 years of service and 55 years of age requirement took effect.

This amendment also provided that the Maine State Retirement System retirement benefit of Maine State Police Sergeant David McPherson must be calculated under the requirements of the so-called "25/50 special retirement plan" that Sergeant McPherson was covered by when he began law enforcement service as a forest ranger.

Senate Amendment "L" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-659) authorized the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation to issue a certificate of participation to finance its conversion to digital broadcasting, as required by federal mandate.

Senate Amendment "M" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-660) deappropriated \$6,000,000 for capital construction and improvements of juvenile correction facilities and provided \$6,000,000 to the University of Maine System for the Maine Economic Improvement Fund.

Senate Amendment "N" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-664) repealed the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but left intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax.

This amendment also increased the individual income tax personal exemption in a 2-step process in an attempt to conform with the federal individual income tax personal exemption.

This amendment expanded the circuit breaker program in 3 ways. First, the tax to income thresholds would be reduced from 4% and 8% to 2% and 6%, respectively. Second, the income thresholds would be increased in program year 1998 from \$26,400 for singles and \$41,100 for joint filers to \$40,000 and \$60,000, respectively. Third, it increased the maximum benefit from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

This amendment funded the repeal of the snack tax, the expansion of the circuit breaker program and the increase in the personal exemption with funding from the Maine Rainy Day Fund.

Senate Amendment "O" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-665) clarified that the calculation of the rebate and the negotiation of the rebate agreements authorized by this Act are to occur after the approval by the federal Health Care Financing Administration of a waiver to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits to qualified persons 62 years of age or older as provided in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3174-G, subsection 1-A.

Senate Amendment "P" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-666) provided that the business equipment tax reimbursement, or "BETR," be limited to 90% of taxes paid.

Senate Amendment "Q" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-667) repealed the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but left intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax.

This amendment also increased the individual income tax personal exemption to conform with the federal individual income tax personal exemption in tax years 1998 and 1999.

This amendment expanded the circuit breaker program in 2 ways. First, the tax to income thresholds would be reduced from 4% and 8% to 3% and 6%, respectively. Second, the income thresholds would be increased in program year 1998 from \$26,400 for singles and \$41,100 for joint filers to \$40,000 and \$60,000, respectively. Third, it increased the maximum benefit payment from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

This amendment funded the repeal of the snack tax, the expansion of the circuit breaker program and the increase in the personal exemption with funding from the 2 tax relief funds.

Senate Amendment "R" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-668) provided funds to increase funding available for out-of-district placements.

Senate Amendment "S" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-669) transferred \$6,000,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund with the University of Maine System for research and development.

Senate Amendment "T" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-670) provided that reimbursement may not be made under the business equipment tax reimbursement laws, or "BETR," for property for which the municipality has refunded property taxes under a tax increment financing agreement.

Senate Amendment "U" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-671) provided that natural gas pipelines and certain property used in the production or generation of electricity is not eligible for reimbursement for taxes paid on certain business property.

Senate Amendment "V" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-672) provided funds for the Maine Economic Improvement Fund to be used to fund applied scientific research and related commercial development conducted by the University of Maine System.

Senate Amendment "W" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-673) appropriated \$1,600,000 for out-of-district placements and deappropriated the same amount from the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program.

Senate Amendment "X" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-675) reduced the sales tax from 6% to 5% effective January 1, 1999 and established the Tax Relief Guarantee Fund for the purposes of ensuring the continuation of tax

relief in the next biennium. The amendment repealed the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund and required the State Controller to transfer any unexpended or unobligated balances to the Tax Relief Guarantee Fund.

This amendment also removed those provisions of Committee Amendment "A" that repealed the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund and that authorized the balance of either fund to lapse to the General Fund.

Senate Amendment "Y" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-680) repealed the snack tax, effective January 1, 1999, but left intact the taxation of those items that were taxable prior to the enactment of the snack tax.

This amendment also increased the individual income tax personal exemption in a 2-step process in an attempt to conform with the federal individual income tax personal exemption.

This amendment expanded the circuit breaker program in 2 ways. First, the tax to income thresholds would be reduced from 4% and 8% to 2% and 6%, respectively. Second, the income thresholds would be increased in program year 1998 from \$26,400 for singles and \$41,100 for joint filers to \$40,000 and \$60,000, respectively.

This amendment funded the repeal of the snack tax, the expansion of the circuit breaker program and the increase in the personal exemption with funding from 2 tax relief funds established by the 118th Legislature.

This amendment also contained the legislative recommendations of the Working Group on Motor Vehicle Fines, Enforcement and Reimbursement. The Part addressed reimbursement for municipal and county law enforcement agencies whose officers are required to be present in District Court as well as the moratorium on local traffic ordinances enacted in Public Law 1997, chapter 392.

The law authorizing municipalities to designate a law enforcement officer as the court officer to handle arraignments was reworded but retained. The reimbursement to the municipality or county supplying the court officer would be increased from \$10 a day to \$40 a day.

The court reimbursement rate for municipal law enforcement officers who are required to appear in court is \$10 a day. This bill increased the reimbursement to \$40 a day, added county law enforcement officers, clarified that the reimbursement is paid to the municipality or county and clarified that the reimbursement is \$40 regardless of whether the officer is appearing during regular working hours, while off duty or while working overtime. The working group arrived at the figure of \$40 a day after reviewing current municipal costs for officers appearing in court.

This amendment created a separate fund out of which the Administrative Office of the Courts shall pay the reimbursements to the municipalities and counties. Nine and one half percent of all traffic infraction revenue would be deposited in the fund. At the end of each fiscal year, 5% of the amount of revenue from traffic infraction fines would accrue to the General Fund and the balance would accrue to the Highway Fund. If there is a deficit in the fund, a transfer would be made from the General Fund.

This amendment repealed the sunset on the new law prohibiting municipalities from adopting ordinances that are the same as or conflict with the state laws governing speed and other traffic control limits. It also made the explicit prohibition permanent.

This amendment also eliminated certain positions in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Economic and Community Development, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Public Safety.

This amendment also eliminated the \$100,000 appropriation to the University of Maine at Fort Kent for the construction and relocation of a facility for forestry and environmental programs.

The amendment also eliminated supplemental funding of the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program and the Maine Technical College System's capital request.

It provided supplemental funding for the Magnet School, the State's libraries, water pollution control facilities, drinking water system improvements, Land for Maine's Future Board and Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation's federally mandated conversion to digital broadcasting.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 643 does the following:

Part	Section	
A	A-1	Supplemental General Fund Appropriations/Deappropriations
	A-2	Supplemental Highway Fund Allocations/Deallocations
	A-3	Supplemental Federal Expenditures Fund Allocations/Deallocations
	A-4	Supplemental Other Special Revenue Allocations/Deallocations
	A-5	Supplemental Federal Block Grant Allocations/Deallocations
	A-6	Supplemental Office of Information Services Fund Deallocations
	A-7	Supplemental Workers' Compensation Management Fund Allocations
	A-8	Supplemental Real Property Lease Internal Service Fund Allocations/Deallocations
	A-9	Supplemental Island Ferry Services Fund Allocations
	A-10	Supplemental Alcoholic Beverage Fund Allocations/Deallocations
	A-11	Supplemental State Lottery Fund Allocations
B	B-1	General Fund Appropriations for Reclassifications
	B-2	Federal Expenditures Fund Allocations for Reclassifications
	B-3	Other Special Revenue Allocations for Reclassifications
	B-4	Federal Block Grant Fund Allocations for Reclassifications
	B-5	Office of Information Services Fund Allocations for Reclassifications
C	C-1	General Fund Deappropriations to Fund Reclassifications
D	D-1	Establishes the fiscal year 1998-99 school subsidy hardship cushion distribution method
	D-2	Eliminates the 5% cap on the Commissioner of Education's recommended funding level,

		instead requiring that the level not exceed the funding level for the current year (amended by LD 2048, PL 1997, c. 724)
D-3; D-5		Changes the calculation to establish a school administrative unit's weighted relative fiscal capacity
D-4		Limits the Legislature's appropriation for school subsidy in a current services budget at the funding level for the year then in progress. School subsidy increases would be requested in a supplemental appropriations budget bill
D-6		Increases the amount of appropriation balances in the Education in the Unorganized Territory Account that will lapse to General Fund revenue in fiscal year 1997-98 by \$1,076,649
D-7		Establishes the basic elementary and secondary per pupil operating rates, per pupil operating rates, per pupil guarantee and statewide factor for General Purpose Aid
D-8;D-12		Establishes basic education allocation and appropriation level for fiscal year 1998-99
D-13		Authorizes \$1,000,000 of available appropriation balances from fiscal year 1997-98 in the Education in the Unorganized Territory account to lapse to General Fund revenue in fiscal year 1998-99
D-14		Requires that the fiscal year 1998-99 funding level for General Purpose Aid for Local Schools be reduced by \$16,660,478 for the purpose of calculating school subsidy for the 2000-2001 biennium
D-15		Authorizes \$1,978,864 of available construction aid recoveries in the General Purpose Aid for Local Schools account to lapse to General Fund revenue in fiscal year 1997-98
D-16		Deappropriates funds from the General Purpose Aid account to offset appropriations for services for preschool handicapped children and appropriates funds to increase the state subsidy for adult education by an additional 2%
D-17		Appropriates funds for the State Board of Education and the Education Research Institute with an offsetting deappropriation to the General Purpose Aid account
Part	Section	
E	E-1	Increases the "cap" of the Maine Rainy Day Fund to 5% and allows the State Controller to transfer from the unappropriated surplus to the MRDF without an appropriation
	E-2	Authorizes a transfer of \$3,200,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Retirement - Federal Recovery Program in fiscal year 1998-99
	E-3	Changes the due date for the 4-year forecast of revenues and expenditures for the General Fund and Highway Fund
	E-4	Increases the per diem for members of the State Board of Property Tax Review from \$50 to \$75
	E-5	Repeals the laws that authorized the issuance of the fiscal year 1997-98 tax anticipation note
	E-6	Allows the Bureau of Information Services to apply its restructured rates to all affected funds
	E-7	Authorizes \$616,462 of unencumbered balance forward from fiscal year 1996-97 in the Statewide-Retiree Health account to lapse to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98
	E-8	Authorizes \$1,697,566 of unencumbered balance forward from fiscal year 1996-97 in the salary plan account to lapse to the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98
	E-9	Authorizes the transfer of funds from the salary plan accounts to meet the cost of certain stipend payments
	E-10	Authorizes the Bureau of Information Services to implement a career-banding pilot project in fiscal year 1998-99 to be developed jointly by the department and the

		employees' collective bargaining agent. The Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services is required to report to the Appropriations Committee on the effectiveness of the project by January 31, 1999
E-11		Authorizes \$700,000 in lease-purchase financing arrangements for the Central Motor Pool
E-12		Clarifies that the December 1997 and March 1998 General Fund revised revenue projections will not result in transfers to the Maine Rainy Day Fund, the Retirement Allowance Fund or an appropriation to the Property Tax Relief Fund
Part	Section	
F	F-1	Clarifies that the State Tax Assessor may retain funds to cover the administrative
		expenses of collecting fines on behalf of the Judicial Department for the 1998-1999 biennium only. Requires the Judicial Department to budget sufficient funds to pay the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund, Internal Services Fund for services provided in future biennia
F-2		Establishes the Bureau of Revenue Services Fund, Internal Services Fund
F-3		Authorizes the transfer of positions from the Bureau of Revenue Services General Fund account to its Internal Services Fund account
F-4		Appropriates \$175,000 to the Bureau of Revenue Services in fiscal year 1997-98 as a working capital advance. The amount must be repaid to the General Fund on or before June 30, 1999
Part	Section	
G	G-1	Establishes the salary of the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner at salary range 56 of the Standard Salary Schedule for Medical Personnel published by the Bureau of Human Resources
Part	Section	
H	H-1:H-2	Changes the salary pay range of the Director, Bureau of Parks and Lands from Range 88 to Range 89
	H-3	Changes the percentage distribution of revenue credited to the ATV Recreational Management Fund of the Department of Conservation
Part	Section	
I	I-1	Authorizes the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to temporarily establish 100% federally reimbursed positions that support the Loring Rebuild Center by financial order for fiscal year 1998-99
Part	Section	
J	J-1	Changes provision related to funds being carried forward from fiscal year 1996-97 to fiscal year 1997-98 by the Office of the Public Advocate (See also LD 2277)
Part	Section	

K	K-1	Allows the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to achieve \$480,000 in "Personal Services" salary savings over the 1998-1999 biennium rather than achieving \$240,000 in savings in each year of the biennium (See also LD 2293)
	K-2	Authorizes \$655,664 in fiscal year 1997-98 in the Carrying Balances - Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Program to lapse to the General Fund as the result of a revenue shortfall in fiscal year 1996-97
Part	Section	
L	L-1	Authorizes certain hazardous waste fees to continue until superseded

Part	Section	
M	M-1:M-11	Increases the salary and compensation for judges and active retired judges effective in fiscal year 1998-99
	M-12	Provides increased retirement benefits for judges, effective for service beyond FY 98
	M-13	Repeals the provision that would have repealed the authorization for the Judicial Compensation Commission effective December 31, 1999
	M-14	Appropriates funds to the Judicial Department for the salary increases and retirement provisions (See also LD 1062)
Part	Section	
N	N-1	Amends the process of transferring appropriation balances to DMHMRSAS community development accounts by adding AMHI and BMHI balances and eliminating the Bath Children's Home and the Pineland Center; also corrects certain program names
	N-2	Establishes a process for the DMHMRSAS to change the listing of positions to be eliminated at the Bangor Mental Health Institute
	N-3	Authorizes the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to include funding in its biennial base budget for the Bangor Mental Health Institute and Bangor Mental Health Institute - Disproportionate Share programs for the costs to operate a hospital outpatient dental clinic in Aroostook County
	N-4	Requires the consolidation of the Program on Aging at BMHI into units K-1 and K-2; that 7 units be maintained, one of which must be an acute admissions unit; allows units unused for 30 days to be closed; requires that BMHI maintain at least 120 licensed beds. Repeals these provisions June 1, 1999
	N-5	Requires DMHMRSAS to submit a strategic plan to the Legislature that analyzes adult mental health needs in the Bangor area and provides a comprehensive plan covering capacity, levels of care, staffing and services provided
Part	Section	
O	O-1	Authorizes the Department of Labor to carry forward unencumbered General Fund appropriation balances in the Welfare to Work program to June 30, 1999
Part	Section	

P	P-1	Allows the Department of Corrections to deposit funds received from the MSEA as reimbursement for union related activity of the president of the association in the Probation and Parole Other Special Revenue account
Part	Section	
Q	Q-1:Q-2	Changes the salary pay range of the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management from Range 89 to Range 91
	Q-3:Q-6	Upgrades the Director of the Military Bureau to a Deputy Commissioner who serves at the pleasure of the commissioner
	Q-7	Adds the classification of laborer to the list of employees of the DDVEM who are not required to be veterans as a condition of employment

Part	Section	
R	R-1	Reduces the amortization period for the unfunded actuarial liability of the Maine State Retirement System as of July 1, 1998 from the remaining 30 years of a 35-year period to a 25-year period
Part	Section	
S	S-1	Transfers \$5,200,000 from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents, \$20,000,000 from the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund and \$3,005,840 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Rainy Day Fund in fiscal year 1997-98
	S-2	Transfers \$36,000,000 from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents to the General Fund unappropriated surplus in fiscal year 1998-99
	S-3	Transfers \$6,347,667 from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents to the General Fund unappropriated surplus in fiscal year 1998-99
	S-4	Transfers \$15,521,131 in fiscal year 1997-98 and \$37,694,872 in fiscal year 1998-99 from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents to General Fund unappropriated surplus
	S-5:S-6	Makes General Fund appropriations, after making several transfers to the unappropriated surplus from the tax relief funds, for a number of purposes
Part	Section	
T	T-1:T-7	Repeals the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund effective June 30, 1999 and authorizes any unencumbered balances in those funds to lapse to the General Fund at the end of fiscal year 1998-99
Part	Section	
U	U-1	Allows state departments and agencies to accept payment for goods and services by major credit cards
Part	Section	
V	V-1	Repeals the law that required all state departments, agencies and offices be closed on

		May 10, 1991 and May 24, 1991. All state employees, even "essential" employees who were required to work on those days, were not compensated and instead were to be paid for the two days when they left state service
V-2		Authorizes those affected state employees who remain in state service to be paid for the 2 "closed" days in fiscal year 1997-98 rather than when they leave state service
V-3		Provides General Fund appropriations for both employees in the General Fund and employees in the Highway Fund
V-4		Provides that section 1 applies to all programs in State Government no later than June 30, 1999
Part	Section	
W	W-1	Adds the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs to the list of recipients of the various reports of the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission

Part	Section	
X	X-1	Provides that the first transfer of funds to the Retirement Allowance Fund in compliance with 5 MRSA §1517 must be used to finally settle the actuarial and accumulated interest costs of the early retirement incentives provided by 8 school administrative units
Part	Section	
Y	Y-1	Eliminates the current prohibition on establishing most positions administratively. State agencies will be able to create temporary positions by financial order if the positions established have an end date not exceeding the statutory adjournment date of the next regular session of the Legislature
Part	Section	
Z	Z-1	Appropriates one-time supplemental funds to the St. Croix International Waterway
Part	Section	
AA	AA-1	Specifies that oil pipelines and other oil off-loading facilities are limited to sites in Portland and Searsport harbors
	AA-2	Establishes a statewide transportation infrastructure strategy for funds repaid to the Marine Port Authority for the redevelopment of Mack Point
	AA-3	Provides nonlapsing language for a General Fund appropriation that provides funds to develop a cargo port at Mack Point
	AA-4	Allocates funds from the sale of steel to be used for the development of a cargo port at Mack Point
Part	Section	
BB	BB-1	Directs the Department of Transportation to study several aspects related to the development of a west-east highway

	BB-2	Establishes legislative intent that a west-east highway project will neither detract from nor diminish the commitment of the DOT to the maintenance and upkeep of existing roadways
	BB-3	Requires the State Planning Office, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Economic and Community Development to study a number of economic issues associated with the development of a west-east highway
Part	Section	
CC	CC-1	Provides General Fund appropriations for several economic development initiatives (See also LD 2249)
Part	Section	
DD	DD-1	Authorizes the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority to issue up to \$5,500,000 in securities for courthouse projects in Lewiston, Springvale and other designated locations
Part	Section	
EE	EE-1	Allows the Administrative Office of the Courts to use 100%, rather than 80%, of the nondesignated Alternative Dispute Resolution Services resources to meet the costs of providing ADR services
Part	Section	
FF	FF-1	Appropriates \$3,000,000 to the Maine Technical College System for information technology, capital equipment and facility improvements
Part	Section	
GG	GG-1	Authorizes the University of Maine at Fort Kent to lease land from the Bureau of Parks and Lands and clarifies certain location provisions
	GG-2	Provides a General Fund appropriation to UMFK to assist with the construction and relocation of a facility for forestry and environmental programs
Part	Section	
HH	HH-1	Increases the maximum grant size in the Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program from \$500 to \$1,000 for students attending public institutions of higher education and prohibits the institutions from reducing grant aid as a result of the receipt of the MSISP grant
	HH-2	Repeals the requirement that grants to private institutions be 2 times the amount of grants to public institutions of higher education
	HH-3	Provides an additional General Fund appropriation of \$4,000,000 for the MSISP program (Related to LD 2213)
Part	Section	
II	II-1	Directs the Department of Human Services to recommend programmatic and financial

divisions within the Medical Care - Payments to Providers program to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs by January 8, 1999

Part	Section	
JJ	JJ-1	Provides supplemental appropriations for adult day care, Alzheimer's respite care and for the consumer-directed home based care program within the Department of Labor
Part	Section	
KK	KK-1	Repeals the law that established the Health Care Fund for Maine Citizens that would receive any funds paid as awards or settlements from tobacco companies pursuant to an action brought by the State against cigarette manufacturers
Part	Section	
LL	LL-1	Increases to \$4,000,000 the amount to be transferred from available General Fund balances at 6/30/98 to the University of Maine System for the Maine Economic Improvement Strategy
	LL-2	Authorizes the University of Maine System to include the \$4,000,000 anticipated transfer as part of their "current services" budget request in the 2000-2001 biennium (See also LD 1658 and LD 2200)
Part	Section	
MM	MM-1	Allows the Federal-State Inspection Fund to permanently retain all fund interest earnings
Part	Section	
NN	NN-1;NN-3	Classifies certain office and division director positions within the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources
	NN-2	Provides authorization to the Department of Marine Resources for additional Deputy Commissioner positions
Part	Section	
OO	OO-1;OO-3	Increases the state's share of retired educators' health insurance to 30% on 1/1/99
	OO-2	Provides a General Fund appropriation for the additional retired educator health insurance costs (See also LD 174)
Part	Section	
PP	PP-1:PP-2	Implements collective bargaining agreements for certain Judicial Department employees
	PP-3	Allows the Judicial Department to access funds in the Salary Plan program for its collective bargaining costs
	PP-4	Authorizes the transfer of funds from the salary plan accounts to the Judicial Department to meet the cost of certain stipend payments
	PP-5:PP-6	Authorizes the Judicial Department of reclassify two positions

Part	Section	
QQ	QQ-1	Provides authorization for members of the Maine Ferry Advisory Board to be reimbursed for expenses
	QQ-2	Requires each island municipality to appoint an alternate member to the board
	QQ-3	Allocates funds for the meeting expenses of the board
Part	Section	
RR	RR-1:RR-2	Requires the Department of Human Services to seek to increase rebates in aggregate by an additional 6 percentage points for the elderly low-cost drug program by 10/1/98 and report to the Legislature's Health and Human Services and Appropriations Committees
	RR-3	Requires DHS to produce and provide education materials about the elderly low-cost drug program
	RR-4	Directs DHS to apply for a HCFA waiver to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits to qualified persons age 62 or older. DHS must report to the HHS and AFA committees by 10/1/98
	RR-5	Requires DHS to enter into a drug rebate agreement under the Medicaid program with an aggregate rebate amount that is at least 6 percentage points higher. A progress report must be submitted by DHS to the 119th Legislature
	RR-6	Clarifies the cost of drugs provided under the elderly low cost drug program vis-a-vis household eligibility
	RR-7	Calls on DHS to adopt rules for the elderly low-cost drug program expansion pursuant to 22 MRSA § 254
	RR-8	Appropriates \$2,000,000 to expand the number of drugs covered by the program (See also LD 2218)
Part	Section	
SS	SS-1	Requires the Department of Education and the Department of Corrections to review all educational programs at the Maine Youth Center and report their findings and prepare a plan for the Legislature
	SS-2	Establishes departmental responsibility for plan implementation and monitoring
	SS-3	Requires an annual review by the Legislature of the Department of Corrections' progress in implementing the school improvement plan
Part	Section	
TT	TT-1	Requires the DMHMRSAS and the Department of Corrections to jointly review mental health programs at the Maine Youth Center and report their findings and prepare a plan for the Legislature
	TT-2	Establishes departmental responsibility for plan implementation and monitoring
	TT-3	Requires an annual review by the Legislature of the Department of Corrections' progress in implementing the plan
Part	Section	
UU	UU-1	Articulates the Legislature's intent to reduce the General Fund subsidy to the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in the 2000-2001 biennium

	UU-2	Directs the Director of the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to develop a plan for reduced reliance on the General Fund
Part	Section	
VV	VV-1	Authorizes a 5% increase in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families benefits for certain recipients (See also LD 2118)
	VV-2	Directs the Department of Human Services to seek reimbursement under Medicaid for certain targeted case management expenditures
Part	Section	
WW	WW-1	Provides state assistance for certain legal immigrants who will no longer be eligible for assistance from the federal supplemental security income program
	WW-2	Provides a General Fund appropriation for certain benefits for legal immigrants (See also LD 1199)

Part	Section	
XX	XX-1:XX-6	Implements the recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities
	XX-7	Provides a General Fund appropriation to expand the shelter operating subsidy program (See also LD 2283)
Part	Section	
YY	YY-1:YY-2	Establishes the Lakes Assessment and Protection Program within the Department of Environmental protection
	YY-3	Provides appropriations to carry out lake assessment and protection projects (See also LD 80)
Part	Section	
ZZ	ZZ-1	Requires the Risk Management Fund to pay \$125,000 to Dan Corey and the Nu Seed Corporation to settle certain claims (See also LD 2052)
Part	Section	
AAA	AAA-1	Establishes the Capital Construction and Improvements Reserve Fund as a non-lapsing fund for capital projects that construct, renovate or improve state facilities
	AAA-2	Appropriates funds to the reserve fund including \$10,000,000 for the Maine Criminal Justice Academy at the Oak Grove campus, \$18,000,000 for construction at the Maine Youth Center and \$18,000,000 to convert the Charleston Correctional Facility to a juvenile center
Part	Section	

BBB	BBB-1	Provides additional appropriations to the Jobs for Maine's Graduates program (See also LD 1970)
Part	Section	
CCC	CCC-1	Provides additional appropriations to the Maine Technical College System for the Maine Career Advantage Program (See also LD 2101)
Part	Section	
DDD	DDD-1 DDD-2	Provides additional appropriations to expand the Maine apprenticeship program Deallocates federal funds associated with the increased General Fund commitment to the apprenticeship program (See also LD 2126)
Part	Section	
EEE	EEE-1	Provides General Fund appropriations of \$2,000,000 to Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation to assist with its conversion to digital broadcasting (See also LD 2107)

Part	Section	
FFF	FFF-1	Provides additional appropriations for the Land for Maine's Future Fund of which up to 20% must be expended for farmland preservation (See also LD 2253)
Part	Section	
GGG	GGG-1	Requires the State Controller to transfer \$5,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund by June 30, 1999
Part	Section	
HHH	HHH-1	Repeals a provision requiring that all resources appropriated to the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents be used to increase the personal exemption
	HHH-2	Requires municipalities to include information related to the homestead property tax exemption on property tax bills issued to taxpayers
	HHH-3	Provides an equalized homestead property tax exemption of \$7,000 to be administered at the local level and reimbursed by the State
	HHH-4	Increases the personal exemption for Maine's individual income tax to \$2,400 for income tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1998 and to \$2,750 for income tax years beginning on or after January 1, 1999
	HHH-5	Changes the date for the next annual adjustment of the personal exemption to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2000
	HHH-6	Increases benefits for renters under the Maine Residents Property Tax Program by increasing the percentage of rent constituting property taxes accrued for a nonelderly household from 15% to 18% of rent paid
	HHH-7	Provides General Fund appropriations for additional administrative costs of the Bureau of Revenue Services, for 100% of the estimated amount of the property tax exemption under the homestead exemption program and for 90% of the estimated local costs

HHH-8	required to implement the homestead exemption program Requires the transfer of \$47,051,828 from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents to the General Fund in fiscal year 1998-99
HHH-9	Requires the transfer of \$29,080,192 from the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in fiscal year 1998-99
HHH-10	Retroactivity provision making the Act retroactive to April 1, 1998 (amended by LD 2297, PL 1997, c. 729, Part D to make only Part HHH retroactive) (See also LD 2219)

This bill takes effect June 30, 1998.

LD 1958 An Act to Reimburse Kennebec County for the Costs of County Jail Construction ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TREAT	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1958 proposed to provide a General Fund appropriation of \$300,000 to the Department of Corrections to reimburse Kennebec County for certain county jail construction costs.

LD 1965 An Act to Appropriate Funds for the Interpreter Service for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing P & S 89 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TREAT	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-490
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LD 1965 proposed to appropriate funds for hourly interpreting services, in-service training for certain state agencies, establishment of an emergency response system to access on-call legal interpreters and for administrative purposes.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-490) proposed to eliminate the General Fund appropriation for fiscal year 1997-98 and reduce the General Fund appropriation for fiscal year 1998-99 to \$36,400. The amendment also authorized the Department of Labor to utilize other available resources to achieve an expansion of services for the deaf and hard of hearing. The amendment also added a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 89 appropriates \$36,400 from the General Fund in fiscal year 1998-99 to the Department of Labor for hourly interpreting services, in-service training for certain state agencies, establishment of an emergency response system to access on-call legal interpreters and for administrative purposes. The Department of Labor is authorized to utilize other available resources to achieve an expansion of services for the deaf and hard of hearing. This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on April 15, 1998.

LD 1970 An Act to Protect and Maintain Opportunities for Students by Funding Jobs for Maine Graduates INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E LONGLEY	OTP	

LD 1970 proposed to provide funding to the Jobs for Maine's Graduates program to replace lost federal school-to-work funds, thereby preventing the shutdown of 14 school sites and the elimination of dropout prevention, dropout recovery and school to work or college transition services to 580 Maine students. A General Fund appropriation of \$515,000 for this purpose was included in Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part BBB.

LD 1995 An Act to Appropriate Funds for Library Resource Sharing and for P & S 83
Acquisitions for the Maine State Library

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COLWELL RAND	OTP-AM	H-844 S-764 MICHAUD

LD 1995 proposed to fund resource sharing among Maine's libraries. It proposed to help reduce the financial impact of rising postal charges and other costs associated with interlibrary lending and borrowing and to raise the Maine State Library's acquisition budget to the level of the other area reference and resource centers at Bangor Public Library and Portland Public Library.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-844) proposed to establish a nonlapsing account within the Maine State Library designed to provide support for public libraries and to foster and help fund library resource sharing. It provided a General Fund appropriation of \$1,200,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 as the initial funding year and required the State Library Commission to report annually on disbursements made to public libraries from the account. It also proposed to provide a General Fund appropriation to increase the Maine State Library's acquisition budget by \$200,000 annually beginning in fiscal year 1998-99.

Senate Amendment "C" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-764) struck the portions of the committee amendment that created a nonlapsing fund within the Maine State Library to support public libraries and library resource sharing. It also removed the \$1,200,000 General Fund appropriation provided for that purpose and specified that the remaining \$200,000 appropriation is provided on a one-time basis.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 83 provides a General Fund appropriation of \$200,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 to the Maine State Library on a one-time basis to increase the library's acquisition budget.

LD 2000 An Act to Appropriate Funds for Mental Retardation Day Services ONTP
for Nonclass Members

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

LD 2000 proposed to provide a \$1,300,000 General Fund appropriation for the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to provide day services to people with mental retardation who are not class members.

LD 2002

An Act to Delay the Implementation of Performance Budgeting for State Government

**PUBLIC 764
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)
OTT

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-1089

LD 2002 proposed to delay the strategic planning and performance budgeting initiative as enacted by Public Law 1995, chapter 705 and Public Law 1997, chapter 184. The delay would allow the departments and agencies of State Government to further refine their strategic plans and to solicit additional input from the Legislature. Development of policy areas and development of joint strategic plans would be delayed for 2 years. The establishment of policy areas would be the responsibility of the Legislature. Full implementation of performance budgeting would be delayed 4 years to coincide with the 2004-2005 biennium.

It proposed to require the Commission on Performance Budgeting to recommend the most cost-effective method to validate measurable objectives and to audit the completed performance budget. The commission would also be authorized to submit legislation as necessary.

Finally, it required the State Budget Officer to submit a recommendation to the Legislature and the Governor concerning the specific level at which resources would be appropriated or allocated in the performance budget milieu.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1089) proposed the following:

1. Clarified that the legislative and judicial branches may elect to participate or to not participate in the strategic planning and performance budgeting initiative;
2. Eliminated all reference to "policy area" planning or budgeting;
3. Added or clarified certain definitions related to strategic planning and performance budgeting;
4. Reduced the size of the Commission on Performance Budgeting to 13 members, called on the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to appoint the chair from the legislative members and called on the commission to be staffed primarily by Legislative Council staff;
5. Called on state agencies to submit updated draft strategic plans by December 1, 1998, submit final strategic plans by December 1, 1999 and submit biennial strategic plan revisions by December 1, 2000 and December 1st of each even-numbered year thereafter to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over that agency's matters for its review and comment;
6. Called on state agencies to identify programs within their agency having the same or similar goals and objectives as one or more other state agencies, consult and coordinate their strategies toward common goals and objectives and submit any revised strategic plans by September 1, 2001 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over that agency's matters, as well as to the State Planning Office, the Bureau of

the Budget, the Office of Fiscal and Program Review and the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, for their review and comment;

7. Required the Governor to present a prototype budget bill and budget document to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature for the Legislature's review and recommendation; and
8. Required the 2002-2003 biennial budget to be prepared and presented to the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature in a performance budget format by state agencies consistent with each agency's strategic plan.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 764 does the following:

1. Clarifies that the legislative and judicial branches may elect to participate or to not participate in the strategic planning and performance budgeting initiative;
2. Eliminates all reference to "policy area" planning or budgeting;
3. Adds or clarifies certain definitions related to strategic planning and performance budgeting;
4. Reduces the size of the Commission on Performance Budgeting to 13 members, calls on the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to appoint the chair from the legislative members and calls on the commission to be staffed primarily by Legislative Council staff;
5. Calls on state agencies to submit updated draft strategic plans by December 1, 1998, submit final strategic plans by December 1, 1999 and submit biennial strategic plan revisions by December 1, 2000 and December 1st of each even-numbered year thereafter to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over that agency's matters for its review and comment;
6. Calls on state agencies to identify programs within their agency having the same or similar goals and objectives as one or more other state agencies, consult and coordinate their strategies toward common goals and objectives and submit any revised strategic plans by September 1, 2001 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over that agency's matters, as well as to the State Planning Office, the Bureau of the Budget, the Office of Fiscal and Program Review and the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis, for their review and comment;
7. Requires the Governor to present a prototype budget bill and budget document to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature for the Legislature's review and recommendation; and
8. Requires the 2002-2003 biennial budget to be prepared and presented to the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature in a performance budget format by state agencies consistent with each agency's strategic plan.

This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on April 16, 1998.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BUTLAND	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-753 MICHAUD

LD 2012 proposed to provide funds to help state departments and agencies solve problems in their information systems that are expected to occur in the year 2000. It appropriated \$2,000,000 from the General Fund in fiscal year 1997-98 to the Bureau of Information Services to create a contingency fund. Authorized uses would have included software and hardware replacements, external consulting and staff retention.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-753) replaced the bill. It required the Director of the Bureau of Information Services, within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, to provide quarterly reports to the Legislature describing the progress of state departments and agencies toward resolving "Year 2000" information system problems. The amendment also provided funding to assist the Legislature with its "Year 2000" and migration needs.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 87 requires the Director of the Bureau of Information Services, within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, to provide quarterly reports to the Legislature describing the progress of state departments and agencies toward resolving "Year 2000" information system problems. The law also provides funding to assist the Legislature with its "Year 2000" and migration needs. This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on April 14, 1998.

LD 2023 An Act to Restore Services to Maine's Elderly P & S 85

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PARADIS LEMAIRE	OTP-AM	S-479 S-726 MICHAUD

LD 2023 proposed to provide the Department of Human Services with General Fund appropriations totaling \$383,230 to restore funding that was cut in 1991 to the area agencies on aging. This bill proposed to restore funds for meals on wheels, outreach funds for services to people in their homes, senior volunteer services, transportation and planning and administrative coordination.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-479) proposed to reduce the General Fund appropriation to the Purchased Social Services program by \$100,000 and provide General Fund appropriations totaling \$283,230 to accurately reflect the amount required to restore, but not increase, funding for certain services provided by the area agencies on aging.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-726) proposed to provide a supplemental General Fund appropriation of \$150,000 to partially restore funding that was cut in 1991 for services provided through the area agencies on aging. It also proposed a supplemental General Fund appropriation of \$400,000 for the Department of Human Services to issue a request for proposals for supportive services in assisted living settings in the Bangor area. It also proposed to deallocate Other Special Revenue funds from the Bureau of Medical Services to reflect that certain license fee revenue must be deposited in the General Fund pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1815.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 85 includes a supplemental General Fund appropriation of \$150,000 to partially restore funding for priority social service programs for home support provided through the area agencies on aging. It also includes a supplemental General Fund appropriation of \$400,000 for the Department of Human Services to issue a request for proposals for supportive services in assisted living settings in the Bangor area. It also deallocates \$250,000 from Other Special Revenue funds within the Bureau of Medical Services to reflect that certain license fee revenue must be deposited in the General Fund pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 1815.

LD 2041 **An Act to Correct and Supplement Funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics** **PUBLIC 760 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KNEELAND	OTP-AM MAJ	H-927
KIEFFER	OTP MIN	S-778 KIEFFER

LD 2041 proposed to provide funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-927) proposed to amend the reporting requirements for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics to require that certain reports be submitted annually rather than biennially. It also required the school to submit quarterly financial statements. The amendment also clarified that the General Fund appropriations were being provided on a one-time basis to pay outstanding bills.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-778) removed the emergency preamble and emergency clause from the bill and moved the General Fund appropriation of \$50,000 in fiscal year 1997-98 to fiscal year 1998-99.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 760 requires the Maine School of Science and Mathematics to submit annual rather than biennial reports to the Governor and the Legislature and requires the school to also submit quarterly financial statements. The act also provides a General Fund appropriation to the school of \$150,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 on a one-time basis to pay outstanding bills.

LD 2045 **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$8,000,000 to Provide Affordable and Accessible Housing for Persons Who Are Mentally Retarded** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN PENDLETON P	ONTP	

LD 2045 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$8,000,000, that would have been used for affordable and accessible housing for persons who are mentally retarded.

LD 2051

An Act to Restore Funds Transferred from the Underground Oil Storage Replacement Fund

**DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POULIN	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-847

LD 2051 proposed to restore funding to the Underground Oil Storage Replacement Fund that was transferred to General Fund undedicated revenue in fiscal year 1997-98 and is scheduled to be transferred to undedicated revenue in fiscal year 1998-99.

LD 2053

An Act to Preserve Maine's Historic Properties

ONTP

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

LD 2053 proposed to appropriate funds for major capital improvement projects at the following state-owned historic sites: Fort Popham, Katahdin Iron Works, Fort Pownal, Fort McClary, Fort William Henry, Colonial Pemaquid, Allagash Wilderness Waterway, Fort Knox, Eagle Island, Colburn House, Montpelier, West Quoddy Head Lighthouse, Fort Edgecomb and Fort O'Brien.

LD 2056

An Act Concerning the Maine State Housing Authority's Share of the Transfer Tax

PUBLIC 759

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-1068

LD 2056 proposed to restore the amount of the real estate transfer tax paid to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund to 1/2 of the state's net receipts effective July 1, 1999.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1068) added a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 759 restores the amount of the real estate transfer tax paid to the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund to 1/2 of the state's net receipts effective July 1, 1999.

LD 2057 An Act to Enhance Home-based Services for Maine's Elderly ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KERR PARADIS	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2057 proposed a General Fund appropriation of \$3,000,000 to the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Elder and Adult Services for the purpose of eliminating a waiting list of elderly and disabled individuals who require home-based care services through in-home and community support services and homemaker programs.

LD 2063 An Act to Create the Partnership to Rebuild Maine's Schools ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MITCHELL E BENNETT	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2063 was referred jointly to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. This bill proposed to establish the School Repair Revolving Loan Fund. The fund would be administered by the Maine Municipal Bond Bank to provide interest-free loans to school administrative units to make necessary repairs to school buildings throughout the State.

LD 2064 An Act to Foster Economic Development and Tourism in Maine ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAGGETT COWGER	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2064 proposed to provide a \$2,000,000 appropriation for the construction and development of the Augusta Travel Plaza and the development of the Intelligent Transportation System. The appropriation would have been matched by federal funding.

**LD 2086 An Act to Continue the Membership of the Maine Legislature in the P & S 91
 Council of State Governments**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KONTOS AMERO	OTP	

LD 2086 proposed to restore funding for the Legislature's membership dues to the Council of State Governments for the 1998-99 fiscal year.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 91 restores funding for the Legislature's membership dues to the Council of State Governments in the amount of \$61,615 for fiscal year 1998-99.

LD 2101 An Act to Continue Work-based Learning for Maine's Youth INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLEVELAND KNEELAND	OTP MAJ ONTP MIN	

LD 2101 proposed to enable the Maine Technical College System to continue to provide a statewide work-based learning program for Maine's youth by appropriating money to continue the Maine Career Advantage Program. This appropriation would allow the program to retain its current level of services throughout the State. A General Fund appropriation of \$400,000 for this purpose was included in Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part CCC.

LD 2104 An Act to Ensure Indoor Environmental Quality Assessment Assistance for Public Schools ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SMALL	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 2104 proposed to require a public school utilizing the Division of Safety and Environmental Services within the Bureau of General Services to reimburse 25% of costs to retain qualified expert assistance or to perform analyses not normally performed by the division. The bill further proposed to place any income such as the 25% reimbursement into the IEQ Assessment Account, as established in the bill, to extend the effectiveness of the initial appropriation of \$100,000 included in the bill. The bill also proposed to change the term "indoor air quality" to "indoor environmental quality" to better reflect the potential causes of documented health problems and to expand the scope of an adequate assessment of a structure.

LD 2107 **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$12,000,000 to Enable Maine Public Broadcasting to Implement the Federally Mandated Conversion to Digital Broadcasting** **DIED IN CONCURRENCE**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
AMERO DONNELLY	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	

LD 2107 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$12,000,000, that would have been used by the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation to implement the federally mandated conversion to digital broadcasting. A General Fund appropriation of \$2,000,000 was included in Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part EEE to assist the corporation with the conversion.

LD 2110 **An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Consensus Revenue Forecasting Process** **PUBLIC 655**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-554

LD 2110 proposed to amend the laws related to the Revenue Forecasting Committee by adding 2 new members from nonpartisan legislative staff and by requiring that revenue estimates used in biennial budget preparation be those developed by the committee. The bill also proposed funding for a new economist position in the Office of Fiscal and Program Review.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-554) proposed to add only one new member from nonpartisan legislative staff. It also changed the current process for setting final revenue estimates in that the State Budget Officer's authority to adjust the revenue projections recommended by the Revenue Forecasting Committee is removed. In its place, the State Budget Officer would be authorized to convene a meeting of the committee should new data become available. It also removed the funding for the new economist position.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 655 increases the membership of the Revenue Forecasting Committee by adding a new member from nonpartisan legislative staff. The act also changes the current process for setting final revenue estimates in that the State Budget Officer's authority to adjust the revenue projections recommended by the Revenue Forecasting Committee is removed. In its place, the State Budget Officer is authorized to convene a meeting of the committee should new data become available.

LD 2117 **An Act to Assist People with Housing Needs** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLEVELAND	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 2117 proposed a General Fund appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Maine State Housing Authority's Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund to help first time home buyers, low-income homeowners, low-income renters and persons with special needs.

LD 2122 An Act to Support the Long-term Care Steering Committee PUBLIC 665

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL J	OTP-AM	H-837 H-849 NASS H-966 MITCHELL J

LD 2122 proposed to appropriate \$17,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 to the Department of Human Services to provide support staff and reimbursement to the Long-term Care Steering Committee.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-837) eliminated the General Fund appropriation contained in the bill and proposed to authorize legislative per diem, regional hearings and a 2-day retreat for the Long-term Care Steering Committee. This amendment also directed the Department of Human Services to absorb all expenses related to these activities within the department's existing, budgeted resources.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-849) eliminated authorization for the Long-term Care Steering Committee to hold a 2-day retreat each year.

House Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-966) clarified provisions regarding compensation of members of the Long-term Care Steering Committee by eliminating authorization for member travel reimbursement.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 665 eliminates authorization for member travel reimbursement to meetings of the Long-term Care Steering Committee and requires the Department of Human Services to provide legislative per diem to the members of the committee utilizing existing budgeted resources.

LD 2126 An Act to Provide Funds for the Maine Apprenticeship Program INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HATCH	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	

LD 2126 proposed to appropriate funds to ensure delivery of apprenticeship training and journeyman upgrading, registration of programs and apprentices and development of training courses in conjunction with the Department of Education, the Maine Technical College System, adult education programs and others.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-848) included a General Fund appropriation of \$571,300 in fiscal year 1998-99 to expand the activities of the Maine apprenticeship program. This amendment also included a deallocation of federal funds that is necessary to reflect the increased General Fund commitment. This amendment also added a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 2131 An Act to Restore the State House ONTP

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

LD 2131 proposed to appropriate money from the surplus funds to repair the State House to meet basic health, safety and fire code standards.

LD 2138 Resolve, Directing the Director of the Bureau of Veterans' Services to Study Ways to Improve the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery ONTP

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

LD 2138 proposed to direct the Bureau of Veterans' Services to study ways to improve the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. The resolve also directed the Director of the Bureau of Veterans' Services to give preference to land within a 3-mile radius of the existing cemetery when looking for land to expand the cemetery. The resolve also appropriated funds to hire staff, purchase land, extend the granite wall directory, remedy the drainage problem and provide a reserve fund to hire temporary help to assist in handling the increased workload.

A General Fund appropriation of \$213,888 in fiscal year 1997-98 and \$566,212 in fiscal year 1998-99 was included in Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part A for the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery for one Engineer Technician II position, 2 Heavy Equipment Operator II positions, one Heavy Equipment Operator I position and one Clerk III position in order to meet its obligations to veterans and their dependents as prescribed by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B.

LD 2162 Resolve, to Authorize the Maine State Museum to Purchase Historic Maine Artifacts RESOLVE 86

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E LAWRENCE		S-447 PINGREE

LD 2162
This resolve appropriated \$162,000 from the General Fund to allow the Maine State Museum to purchase historic artifacts.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-447) removed the emergency preamble and emergency clause, changed the fiscal year to 1998-99 and authorized the Maine State Museum to purchase historic artifacts or to reimburse another organization for the purchase of historic artifacts.

Senate Amendment "A" to Senate Amendment "A" (S-449) removed the proposed General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 1998-99 of \$162,000 and replaced it with a new section that authorized the purchase of historic artifacts, utilizing funds available in the State Contingent Account and the Reserve Fund for State House Preservation and Maintenance.

Senate Amendment "B" (S-448) removed the proposed General Fund appropriation in fiscal year 1997-98 of \$162,000 and replaced it with a new section that authorized the purchase of historic artifacts, utilizing funds available in the State Contingent Account and the Reserve Fund for State House Preservation and Maintenance.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 86 removes the emergency preamble and emergency clause, changes the fiscal year to 1998-99 and authorizes the Maine State Museum to purchase historic artifacts or to reimburse another organization for the purchase of historic artifacts

LD 2167 **Resolve, to Encourage High-performance Work Organizations and Quality Jobs in Rural Maine** **ONTP**

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

LD 2167 required state agencies providing business assistance to inform and encourage applicants for assistance to participate in voluntary workplace evaluation programs conducted by nonprofit organizations such as the Maine Quality Center. It also provided funds for the expansion in rural areas with high unemployment and underemployment of workplace evaluation programs and for assistance in implementing high-performance workplace organizational practices.

LD 2178 **An Act to Meet Maine National Guard Payrolls Related to the Ice Storms of 1998** **PUBLIC 564
EMERGENCY**

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

LD 2178 provided for a transfer from the Maine Rainy Day Fund of \$785,000 to meet Maine National Guard payrolls in fiscal year 1997-98 related to the recent ice storms. All amounts reimbursed from the Federal Government would be deposited in the Maine Rainy Day Fund as soon as practicable.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 564 provides for a transfer from the Maine Rainy Day Fund of \$785,000 to meet Maine National Guard payrolls in fiscal year 1997-98 related to the recent ice storms. All amounts reimbursed from the Federal Government would be deposited in the Maine Rainy Day Fund as soon as practicable. This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on January 29, 1998.

LD 2179

An Act Concerning Disaster Assistance in 1998

**PUBLIC 563
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 2179 provided financial assistance to businesses that have suffered financial damage as a result of the ice storms of 1998. The assistance would be designed to complement, not replace, other sources of financial assistance, including both loans from banks and loans from the United States Small Business Administration. Assistance is capped at \$10,000 and is available to businesses that have been unable to get financial assistance in a timely manner from other sources. The program would be administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, which is authorized to establish repayment terms to fit the needs of a business applying for a loan, including deferrals of principal and interest if necessary.

The bill authorized an expedited loan approval process and provides for up to \$2,000,000 in funds from the Economic Recovery Program to be used for loans. Should the Finance Authority of Maine need additional resources to meet the current Economic Recovery Program, the authority would be authorized to request a transfer, or transfers, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 in aggregate in fiscal year 1997-98 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund. Any funds transferred from the Maine Rainy Day Fund would have to be repaid by the authority to the Maine Rainy Day Fund including interest costs.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 563 provides financial assistance to businesses that have suffered financial damage as a result of the ice storms of 1998. The assistance is designed to complement, not replace, other sources of financial assistance, including both loans from banks and loans from the United States Small Business Administration. Assistance is capped at \$10,000 and is available to businesses that have been unable to get financial assistance in a timely manner from other sources. The program is administered by the Finance Authority of Maine, which is authorized to establish repayment terms to fit the needs of a business applying for a loan, including deferrals of principal and interest if necessary.

The bill authorizes an expedited loan approval process and provides for up to \$2,000,000 in funds from the Economic Recovery Program to be used for loans. Should the Finance Authority of Maine need additional resources to meet the current Economic Recovery Program, the authority may request a transfer, or transfers, in an amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 in aggregate in fiscal year 1997-98 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund. Any funds transferred from the Maine Rainy Day Fund would have to be repaid by the authority to the Maine Rainy Day Fund including interest costs. This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on January 29, 1998.

LD 2180

**An Act to Increase the Number of Probation Officers and
Corrections Support Staff**

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
MUSE

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2180 proposed a General Fund appropriation to the Department of Corrections to increase by 25 the number of probation officers. The new probation officer positions were to be used in the following manner: Five officers assigned to domestic violence cases; 5 officers assigned to supervised community confinement cases; 4 officers assigned to mental health cases; one officer assigned to Region 1 Drug Court; and 10 officers assigned to areas to be determined by the Commissioner of Corrections. LD 2180 also proposed to increase by 4 the number of support staff for the Division of Probation and Parole and required the commissioner to conduct an assessment of the office space needs for the division and to locate new space based upon the needs identified in the assessment.

A General Fund appropriation of \$802,610 in fiscal year 1998-99 was included in Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part A for 16.5 new positions, and related costs, related to probation and parole.

LD 2184

**An Act to Appropriate Funds to the Battleship USS Maine
Centennial Committee to Restore and Maintain the Monument to
the USS Maine in Davenport Park**

**P & S 90
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)
BAKER C
CATHCART

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2184 proposed to appropriate \$20,000 to the Battleship USS Maine Centennial Committee to restore and maintain the USS Maine monument at Davenport Park in Bangor.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 90 appropriates \$20,000 to the Battleship USS Maine Centennial Committee to restore and maintain the USS Maine monument at Davenport Park in Bangor. This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on April 15, 1998.

LD 2191

**An Act to Provide State Matching Funds for Federal Disaster
Assistance Relating to the January Ice Storms**

**PUBLIC 565
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)
LAWRENCE
MITCHELL E

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2191 proposed to authorize the transfer of \$5,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Maine Emergency Management Agency to match public and individual federal disaster assistance. The bill also authorized the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to use all remaining resources available within the General Fund Disaster Assistance account to carry out this Act.

House Amendment "A" (H-789) proposed to authorize the transfer of \$2,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Maine Emergency Management Agency to match public and individual federal disaster assistance in order to provide reimbursement for the purchase of generators.

House Amendment "B" (H-792) proposed to authorize the transfer of \$2,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Maine Emergency Management Agency to match public and individual federal disaster assistance in order to provide reimbursement for the purchase of generators, kerosene space heaters, wood and other emergency heating alternatives.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-455) proposed to authorize the transfer of \$2,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund to the Maine Emergency Management Agency to match public and individual federal disaster assistance in order to provide reimbursement for the purchase of generators. Reimbursement for generators is limited to 50% of the purchase price and a maximum of \$500 per generator.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 565 authorizes the transfer of up to \$5,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund in fiscal year 1997-98 to the Maine Emergency Management Agency for the State's share for disaster assistance associated with the ice storms of 1998. This bill was enacted as an emergency measure effective on February 12, 1998.

**LD 2200 An Act to Provide Funds for Applied Research and Development DIED ON
Relevant to the Maine Economy ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP MAJ	
	ONTP MIN	

LD 2200 proposed to appropriate \$10,000,000 to the Maine Economic Improvement Fund and required the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System to take all actions necessary to obtain revenues from sources other than the General Fund within 5 years of the first appropriation.

**LD 2205 An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of PUBLIC 718
\$20 Million to Stimulate the Maine Economy through Research and Development**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM MAJ	S-523
	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 2205 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$20,000,000, that would have been used to fund a variety of programs designed to improve the Maine economy through research and development relevant to biotechnology, aquaculture and marine sciences, information technologies, advanced materials engineering and advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture. Thirteen and one-half million dollars of the bond proceeds would be allocated to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System for capital improvements and equipment.

Three million dollars would be allocated to the Marine Technology Fund to provide matching grants to educational and nonprofit marine research institutions; \$1,500,000 allocated to the Research Challenge Grants Program to provide matching funds for all research institutions involved in the 5 target technologies. The Maine Technology Fund and the Research Challenge Grants programs would be administered by the Maine Science and Technology Foundation. Two million dollars were proposed for allocation to the Department of Economic and Community Development to be used to pay a portion of the costs of designing and building the Gulf of Maine Aquarium Research Facility to provide space for collaborative research by academic, nonprofit and private fisheries and marine biotechnology researchers. It proposed to require the University of Maine System to establish, fund and maintain an account for maintenance of building space constructed with the proceeds of the bond. It also prohibited the Treasurer of State from releasing bond proceeds to the University of Maine System until it provided evidence of sufficient funds in the account.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-523) added a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 718 authorizes a bond issue to be presented to the voters at the November 1998 general election, in the amount of \$20,000,000, to be used to fund a variety of programs designed to improve the Maine economy through research and development relevant to biotechnology, aquaculture and marine sciences, information technologies, advanced materials engineering and advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture. Thirteen and one-half million dollars of the bond proceeds are allocated to the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System for capital improvements and equipment. Three million dollars are allocated to the Marine Technology Fund to provide matching grants to educational and nonprofit marine research institutions; \$1,500,000 is allocated to the Research Challenge Grants Program to provide matching funds for all research institutions involved in the 5 target technologies. The Maine Technology Fund and the Research Challenge Grants programs will be administered by the Maine Science and Technology Foundation. Two million dollars are allocated to the Department of Economic and Community Development to be used to pay a portion of the costs of designing and building the Gulf of Maine Aquarium Research Facility to provide space for collaborative research by academic, nonprofit and private fisheries and marine biotechnology researchers. The act requires the University of Maine System to establish, fund and maintain an account for maintenance of building space constructed with the proceeds of the bond. The act also prohibits the Treasurer of State from releasing bond proceeds to the University of Maine System until it provides evidence of sufficient funds in the account.

LD 2206

An Act to Assist Municipalities with Ice Storm-related Cleanup and Reduce Unemployment

ONTP

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

LD 2206 provided assistance to municipalities for ice storm-related cleanup. It transferred \$4,000,000 from the Maine Rainy Day Fund in fiscal year 1997-98 to the Department of Labor to enable the department to recruit and refer unemployed workers to municipalities to assist in the cleanup. The department would reimburse municipalities for the wages and fringe benefits of the individuals employed for this purpose. The department would have been required to seek reimbursement of these funds from all available sources, including the Federal Government, and would deposit the reimbursed funds in the Maine Rainy Day Fund.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E PINGREE	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	

LD 2213 was referred jointly to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. This bill proposed to create the Maine First Scholars Program, designed to provide an incentive for Maine high school graduates to pursue higher education at institutions of higher education in the State. The bill also proposed to provide for an appropriation in the amount of \$14,000,000 to fund the Maine First Scholars Program for the upcoming school year.

Under the proposed program, students graduating from high school would be eligible to receive a scholarship for their first year of attendance, based on demonstrated financial need. The scholarships would be awarded as follows:

1. In the case of students attending institutions in the University of Maine System, the Maine Technical College System or the Maine Maritime Academy, the amount of the scholarship is capped at the tuition established for the University of Maine.
2. In the case of students attending an institution in the Maine Technical College System, the difference between the amount of tuition at that institution and the tuition at the University of Maine would be paid to the Maine Technical College System to provide for the ability to increase enrollment.
3. Students attending private higher educational institutions may receive a scholarship of up to \$3,000 based on demonstrated financial need.
4. Students receiving scholarships under the Maine First Scholars Program would not be entitled to also receive funds from the student incentive scholarship program.

The bill further proposed that all funds that would have been awarded to students under the student incentive scholarship program had the student not received a scholarship under the Maine First Scholars Program may be allocated to the Maine First Scholars Program for awards to students attending private institutions of higher education.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1082), the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, proposed to replace the \$14,000,000 General Fund appropriation to the Maine First Scholars Program with a one-time appropriation of \$9,000,000 for full-time freshmen for the 1998-99 academic year. The amendment further proposed to accomplish the following:

1. It would provide that those funds that would have been paid to eligible students under the student incentive scholarship program fund had those students not received a Maine First Program grant may be allocated to the Maine First Scholars Program fund to be used for grants to eligible students attending private institutions of higher education in the State.

2. It would reduce the amount allocated for scholarships to private institutions to \$500,000.
3. It would require a report to be provided to the Legislature on the effectiveness of the Maine First Scholars Program in December 1999.
4. It would extend to 24 months the time after graduation from high school or equivalent that the student is eligible for the Maine First Scholars Program.
5. It would clarify that the rules that the Finance Authority of Maine must adopt to prioritize available funds are routine technical rules.
6. It would further provide that students must maintain a 2.0 grade point average during the year for which they receive a grant under the Maine First Scholars Program. If a student does not achieve the 2.0 grade point average in the student's first semester or does not complete the semester, the student will not receive a Maine First Scholars Program grant for the 2nd semester. If a student does not complete the first year or does not attain a minimum 2.0 grade point average for the first year, then that student must reimburse the Finance Authority of Maine for the full amount of the grant.
7. It would also require that the University of Maine System dedicate any incremental increases of tuition revenue from students in the Maine First Scholars Program to provide scholarships for program participants.

Finally, the amendment proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

While this bill died in concurrence, two of the substantive provisions of this bill were enacted as part of the supplemental appropriations bill. The Maine Technical College System received a \$3,000,000 appropriation in fiscal year 1998-99 to provide funds for information technology, capital equipment and facility improvements (see Public Law 1997, chapter 643, part FF). The Maine Student Incentive Scholarship Program received an additional \$4,000,000 appropriation in fiscal year 1998-99 (see Public Law 1997, chapter 643, part HH). The supplemental appropriations bill also increased the minimum amount of scholarships from \$500 to \$1,000 and eliminated the requirement that scholarships for students attending private postsecondary education institutions must be 2 times the amount of scholarships awarded to students attending public postsecondary education institutions.

LD 2218 **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force On** **INDEF PP**
Improving Access to Prescription Drugs for the Elderly

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2218 proposed to implement the legislative recommendations of the Task Force on Improving Access to Prescription Drugs for the Elderly, established by Public Law 1997, chapter 560, Part E. LD 2218 proposed to expand the elderly low-cost drug program to cover those who meet the age and disability requirements and whose income is less than or equal to 185% of the federal poverty level. It also directed the Department of Human Services to seek a Medicaid waiver from the federal Health Care Financing Administration to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits for persons 62 years of age and over whose income is less than or equal to 185% of the federal poverty level. LD 2218 also required the Department of Human Services to provide educational materials on the elderly low-cost drug program to be distributed by the Bureau of Revenue Services when sending out the program's drug cards to eligible residents.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1074) replaced the bill and proposed a General Fund appropriation of \$2,000,000 to the Department of Human Services to include additional medications as determined by the department to the elderly low-cost drug program. It also directed the department to pursue a Medicaid waiver to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits. While the bill was indefinitely postponed, many of the provisions of the bill were included, in amended form, in Public Law 1997, c. 643, Part RR.

LD 2224 **An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$7,000,000 to Construct Water Pollution Control Facilities; to Clean Up Tire Stockpiles; to Investigate, Abate, Clean Up and Mitigate Hazardous Substance Discharges; and to Make Drinking Water System Improvements** **P & S 92**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MICHAUD	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-1169

LD 2224 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$16,000,000, that would have been used for the following purposes:

1. \$6,000,000 to construct water pollution control facilities, providing the state match for \$10,000,000 in federal funds;
2. \$3,500,000 to close and clean up municipal solid waste landfills;
3. \$1,500,000 to clean up tire stockpiles, which pose a threat to the public health and safety and the environment;
4. \$1,500,000 to investigate, abate, clean up and mitigate threats to the public health and the environment from hazardous substance discharges;
5. \$500,000 to mitigate storm water pollution through establishment of a comprehensive watershed protection program; and
6. \$3,000,000 to address environmental health deficiencies in public water supplies, providing the state match for \$15,000,000 in federal funds.

Committee of Conference Amendment "A" (H-1169) proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$7,000,000, that would be used for the following purposes:

1. \$3,350,000 to construct water pollution control facilities, providing the state match for \$10,000,000 in federal funds. Of this amount, \$2,000,000 will be used to construct water pollution control facilities, \$850,000 will be used for the State Revolving Loan Fund and \$500,000 for the Small Community Grant Program;

2. \$1,000,000 to clean up tire stockpiles, which pose a threat to the public health and safety and the environment;
3. \$1,150,000 to investigate, abate, clean up and mitigate threats to the public health and the environment from hazardous substance discharges; and
4. \$1,500,000 to address environmental health deficiencies in public water supplies, providing the state match for \$7,100,000 in federal funds.

Enacted bill summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 92 authorizes a bond issue to be presented to the voters at the November 1998 general election in the amount of \$7,000,000 to be used for the following purposes:

1. \$3,350,000 to construct water pollution control facilities, providing the state match for \$10,000,000 in federal funds. Of this amount, \$2,000,000 will be used to construct water pollution control facilities, \$850,000 will be used for the State Revolving Loan Fund and \$500,000 for the Small Community Grant Program;
2. \$1,000,000 to clean up tire stockpiles, which pose a threat to the public health and safety and the environment;
3. \$1,150,000 to investigate, abate, clean up and mitigate threats to the public health and the environment from hazardous substance discharges; and
4. \$1,500,000 to address environmental health deficiencies in public water supplies, providing the state match for \$7,100,000 in federal funds.

LD 2249

An Act to Promote Sustained Economic Growth and to Implement Recommendations Regarding the Department of Economic and Community Development

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2249 proposed to implement the combined recommended General Fund appropriation for the state and regional economic development organizations, including the Maine Science and Technology Foundation. In addition, it proposed to implement the recommendations regarding the Department of Economic and Community Development under the State Government Evaluation Act and made appropriations to the Department of Economic and Community Development to provide enhanced services to businesses to promote the marketing of Maine-made consumer goods. It also proposed to require the Department of Economic and Community Development to report back to the legislative committee of jurisdiction with an assessment of the benefits attributable to the additional funding. Finally, this bill proposed to repeal the statutory requirements that the Director of the Office of Business Development collect and distribute to the appropriate permitting agency permit applications and application fees for retail businesses and that the director establish a municipal centralized permitting program for retail businesses. General Fund appropriations totaling \$2,550,000, which incorporated many of the proposals included in LD 2249, were included in Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part CC.

LD 2253

An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$10,000,000 to Finance the Acquisition of Land for Conservation, Outdoor Recreation and Wildlife Habitat Protection and Farmland Preservation and to Access \$5,000,000 in Matching Contributions From Public and Private Sources

DIED IN CONCURRENCE

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINGREE	OTP-AM A	
MITCHELL E	ONTP B	
	OTP-AM C	

LD 2253 proposed a bond issue, in the amount of \$10,000,000, that would have been used by the Land for Maine's Future Board to acquire lands and easements from willing sellers for public outdoor access and recreation, farmland preservation, conservation and to protect wildlife habitat. To maximize the effectiveness of this investment in Maine's future, the bill proposed that the board secure at least \$5,000,000 in other public and private contributions. Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part FFF provides a General Fund appropriation of \$3,000,000 for the Land for Maine's Future Fund which will be matched with at least \$1,500,000 in public and private funding. Up to 20% of the appropriation must be expended for farmland preservation.

LD 2259

An Act to Preserve the State House and to Renovate State Facilities

PUBLIC 788

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E	OTP-AM MAJ	H-939
LAWRENCE	ONTP MIN	S-708 LAWRENCE
		S-779 MICHAUD

LD 2259 proposed to authorize the preservation of the State House, the renovation of the State Office Building, the Tyson Building and the Marquardt Building; and the construction of a new connector between the State Capitol Building and the State Office Building to replace the current tunnel. The bill proposed to increase the bonding authority of the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority from \$60,000,000 to \$77,000,000 to accommodate the cost of the project.

The bill also specified the total amount of the securities to be issued for the project and allocated the specific amounts of the proceeds from the sales of the securities to the various projects to be undertaken.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-939) proposed to increase the bonding authority in the original bill by \$6,000,000, from \$77,000,000 to \$83,000,000. It proposed to increase the total amount of the securities to be issued for the state facilities projects by \$6,000,000, to \$52,500,000, in order to increase the allocation for the renovation and preservation of the State House. It also proposed to clarify that the scope of each project for the Legislative Branch must be approved by a majority vote of the Legislative Council and provided in writing to the authority. Finally, it added a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "B" (S-708) proposed to clarify the minimum amount of space in the State Office Building to be dedicated to legislative use, required majority vote of the Legislative Council to determine the use of the space and authorized the Legislative Council to direct the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to enter into contracts to maintain and improve that space.

Senate Amendment "C" (S-779) proposed to change the statutory requirement of 2/3 vote of the Legislature to a majority vote of the Legislature to approve actions of the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 788 authorizes the preservation of the State House, the renovation of the State Office Building, the Tyson Building and the Marquardt Building; and the construction of a new connector between the State Capitol Building and the State Office Building to replace the current tunnel. The act increases the total bonding authority of the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority from \$60,000,000 to \$83,000,000 to accommodate the cost of the project, specifies that the total amount of the securities to be issued for the project is \$52,500,000 and allocates the specific amounts of the proceeds from the sales of the securities to the various projects to be undertaken.

The act clarifies that the scope of each project for the Legislative Branch must be approved by a majority vote of the Legislative Council and provided in writing to the authority. It also clarifies the minimum amount of space in the State Office Building to be dedicated to legislative use, requires majority vote of the Legislative Council to determine the use of the space and authorizes the Legislative Council to direct the Executive Director of the Legislative Council to enter into contracts to maintain and improve that space.

Finally, the act changes the statutory requirement of 2/3 vote of the Legislature to a majority vote of the Legislature to approve actions of the Maine Governmental Facilities Authority.

LD 2297 An Act Relating to the Taxation of Certain Federal Entities, the PUBLIC 729
Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement Program, the
Administration of the Tax Laws and to Make a Technical
Correction

Sponsor(s) | Committee Report | Amendments Adopted

LD 2297, Part A, provided that the sales tax exemption for governmental entities does not apply to corporations formed under Part E of the federal Farm Credit Act of 1971.

Part B provided that natural gas pipelines and certain property used in the production or generation of electricity are not eligible for reimbursement for taxes paid on certain business property.

Part C provided funds for the acquisition of a tax modeling system and provides authority to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services to contract for tax auditing services for businesses whose primary locations are outside of the State.

Part D corrected an error in the retroactivity clause of Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part HHH, section 10. The intent of the Legislature was that only Part HHH apply retroactively. The bill ensures that the retroactivity provision applies only to Part HHH.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 729, Part A, provides that the sales tax exemption for governmental entities does not apply to corporations formed under Part E of the federal Farm Credit Act of 1971.

Part B provides that natural gas pipelines and certain property used in the production or generation of electricity are not eligible for reimbursement for taxes paid on certain business property.

Part C provides funds for the acquisition of a tax modeling system and provides authority to the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services to contract for tax auditing services for businesses whose primary locations are outside of the State.

Part D corrects an error in the retroactivity clause of Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part HHH, section 10. The intent of the Legislature was that only Part HHH apply retroactively. The bill ensures that the retroactivity provision applies only to Part HHH.