

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

LD: 1525 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MAINE-NEW HAMPSHIRE
BOUNDARY COMMISSION

CROWLEY
CHALMERS
ROLDE

OTP-AM HOUSE Other
SENATE Other
GOV

H-276 CA H S
S-322 SA HICHENS

SUMMARY:

LD 1525, proposing the creation of a Maine-New Hampshire Boundary Commission to establish a lateral marine boundary, is being held until the Second Regular Session. Similar legislation was vetoed by Governor Sununu of New Hampshire and the State Senate upheld his veto.

LD: 1539 RESOLVE, CONCERNING THE OWNERSHIP OF LITTLE CLARK N
JEWELL ISLAND

HOUSE Ref'd to Committee
SENATE Ref'd to Committee
GOV

SUMMARY:

LD 1539 is being held by the Committee until the Second Regular Session. This resolve proposed to give ownership and title of Little Jewell Island to Mary Cushing Anderson of Freeport. Mrs. Anderson and her husband hoped to obtain ownership of the island in Casco Bay by adverse possession. The Andersons paid taxes on the buildings but not on the land to the Town of Cumberland. The Andersons did not purchase the Island but settled on it.

The State purchased the island 19 years following the Anderson's use of the Island and thereby terminated the efforts of the Andersons to gain ownership through adverse possession which requires 20 years of "squatters" use. The Andersons took their case to the Superior and the State Supreme Courts.

The Courts ruled against the Andersons and declared the State to be the legal owner of Little Jewell Island. As a result, the Andersons took their case to the State Legislature and sought to obtain ownership of the island by legislative transfer of the title.

Since the State used matching federal funds to purchase part of Jewell Island and all of Little Jewell Island for public recreational use transfer of title would invoke federal penalties. The alternative is to find comparable property in lieu of Jewell and Little Jewell Islands.