

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
115TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

AUGUST 1991

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
AUGUST 1991**

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature. The volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H - 584 or S - 222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

<b>PUBLIC XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<b>P&amp;S XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<b>RESOLVE XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
<b>CON RES XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<b>CARRIED OVER</b>	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
<b>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</b>	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<b>ONTP</b>	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
<b>LVWD</b>	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
<b>INDEF PP</b>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<b>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</b>	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<b>VETO SUSTAINED</b>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
<b>UNSIGNED</b>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<b>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</b>	<i>Action incomplete when 1st session ended</i>

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

**LD 201 An Act to Permit the Amendment of Municipal Ordinances at Town Meetings**

**LV/WD**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
RICHARDS

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
LV/WD

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

The bill would have allowed the voters of a town to consider proposed amendments at the time the ordinance was brought before a town meeting. Only the board of selectmen would have been permitted to offer proposed amendments, but citizens of the town could have requested that the selectmen offer certain amendments. The town meeting moderator was responsible for recording the final language of any proposed amendment and for providing this language to the voters. The scope of proposed amendments was restricted by requiring that the amendment pertain to the subject matter of the ordinance and by prohibiting amendments that amounted to a wholesale revision of the ordinance. Finally, the bill required any proposed amendment to be approved by the voters in the same manner as the ordinance that it amended, whether by vote in open town meeting or by secret ballot.

**LD 216 An Act to Amend the Unclaimed Property Act**

**PUBLIC 299**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
BRANNIGAN  
BALDACCI  
SHELTRA

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
S-155

**SUMMARY**

This bill eliminated a provision of MRSA, Title 33, section 1860 that permitted a court to award costs and reasonable attorney fees to a person who established a claim in an action against the Treasurer of State if that person was aggrieved by a decision of the Treasurer of State or the person's claim had not been acted upon within 90 days after its filing.

Committee Amendment "A" added a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 224 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect the Assets of State Retirement Plans**

**CON RES 1**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
BUSTIN  
MITCHELL E  
PARADIS P  
PEARSON

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
S-82

**SUMMARY**

This constitutional resolution required the Legislature to appropriate and transfer annually those funds the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System or any succeeding board determines necessary to maintain the retirement system on an actuarially sound basis.

Committee Amendment "A" added a fiscal note to the bill.