MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
115TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
JUDICIARY

MAY 1992

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES

MAY 1992

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 far right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

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

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, especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

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

4289GEA

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

LD 171 An Act to Strengthen the State's Role in Drug-related Prosecution — ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PARADIS P	ONTP		
GAUVREAU			
RICHARDS			

SUMMARY

The bill established guidelines for the prosecution in federal and state court of drug offenses. The Attorney General is establishing drug prosecution guidelines without legislation.

LD 271 An Act to Replace Certain Criminal Fines with Community Service — ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CONLEY	ONTP		

SUMMARY

The bill gave judges discretion when imposing fines for committing crimes, allowing judges to prescribe specific community service or another alternative sentencing program. A convicted person could choose the alternative rather than pay all or part of the fine.

LD 298 An Act Regarding District Court Location — ONTP-MAJ REP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
OTT	ONTP	MAJ	
	OTP	MIN	

SUMMARY

The bill transferred Kennebunk and Kennebunkport to the District Court of Southern York.

LD 344 An Act to Establish a Limit on Noneconomic Damages in Medical Liability Actions — DIED BETWEEN BODIES

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
HASTINGS	ONTP	MAJ	
RICHARDS	OTP-AM	MIN	
TWITCHELL			
BERUBE			

SUMMARY

The bill set a limit of $250,000 on noneconomic damages in medical liability actions, as recommended by the United States Department of Health and Human Services in its Report of the Task Force on Medical Liability and Malpractice, August 1987. A plaintiff would still be entitled to the plaintiff's full economic loss, including all medical expenses, rehabilitation services, custodial care, loss of earnings and earning capacity, loss of income and any other objectively verifiable monetary losses.