

# 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  
LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**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 1021 An Act Concerning Voting by Absentee Ballot**

**ONTP**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
LIPMAN  
BAILEY H

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have provided for the appointment of special absentee ballot clerks from each of the major political parties to deliver and return absentee ballots. Only these special clerks, municipal clerks, the postal service, spouses and biological relatives of an absentee voter would have been permitted to handle absentee ballots. Under current law, any 3rd person may deliver absentee ballots to voters and return them to the municipal clerk. See LD 1021 for changes to the delivery of absentee ballots by 3rd persons.

**LD 1025 An Act Relating to Certain Types of Indemnity Provisions in Construction Contracts**

**LV/WD**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
CASHMAN  
GURNEY

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
LV/WD

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have declared void and unenforceable so-called "broad form" hold-harmless clauses in construction contracts. These clauses require the contractor to indemnify the owner or other party to the construction contract for injury or damage caused by someone in the control of the owner or other party.

**LD 1027 An Act to Inform the Public About Drug-free School Zones**

**ONTP**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
STEVENS P  
ANTHONY  
RICHARDS

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have required the Commissioner of Public Safety to post the areas around schools as drug-free school zones and would have caused public service announcements to be made to inform the public of the existence of drug-free school zones and the consequences of dealing drugs in such areas. Under Maine law, trafficking in drugs within 1,000 feet of the property of a school carries a greater penalty than trafficking elsewhere.