

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:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| PUBLIC XXX | <i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i> |
| P&S XXX | <i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i> |
| RESOLVE XXX | <i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i> |
| CON RES XXX | <i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i> |
| EMERGENCY | <i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i> |
| CARRIED OVER | <i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i> |
| FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT | <i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i> |
| ONTP | <i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i> |
| LVWD | <i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i> |
| INDEF PP | <i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i> |
| DIED BETWEEN BODIES | <i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i> |
| VETO SUSTAINED | <i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i> |
| UNSIGNED | <i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i> |
| DIED ON ADJOURNMENT | <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 1602 An Act to Limit the Cost and the Length of Campaigns**ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)
 O'GARA
 BRAUN
 HANDY
 CROWLEY

COMMITTEE REPORT
 ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**SUMMARY**

This resolve would have instructed the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to conduct a study of whether the State's election laws should be amended to achieve campaign reform by limiting campaign contributions, campaign practices and advertising, or the length of campaigns.

LD 1606 An Act Regarding Refurbishing Apartments After Damage by Fire**ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)
 BRAUN

COMMITTEE REPORT
 ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**SUMMARY**

This bill would have required landlords to repair dwelling units within one year of fire damage to the dwelling unit.

LD 1656 An Act to Amend the Election Laws Governing Voting Machines and Electronic Voting Systems**PUBLIC 347**

SPONSOR(S)
 KILKELLY
 BERUBE
 PENDLETON

COMMITTEE REPORT
 OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
 H-397

SUMMARY

This bill makes several changes to the election laws regarding electronic voting machines. The bill requires the Secretary of State to provide test ballots, permits municipal clerks to open a packet of test ballots to test electronic voting systems, and establishes procedures governing the clerk's handling of test ballots.

The bill requires the Secretary of State and the Attorney General to jointly establish rules to govern approval of voting machines and electronic voting systems and clarifies that the Secretary of State has the authority to establish rules to recommend certain approved machines or systems to minimize the cost of producing ballot materials. The bill also amends the definition for electronic voting system to include both punch card and mark-sense systems, defines those systems, and clarifies which provisions of law apply to each system.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-397) adds a fiscal note to the bill.