

# 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 1774 An Act to Grandfather Mobile Home Park Lots in Existence Prior to June 30, 1989**

**ONTP**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
MARSH  
HASTINGS

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have provided that the laws prohibiting a municipality from imposing a minimum mobile home park lot size larger than a specified square footage that became effective on June 30, 1989 do not apply to mobile home park lots in existence before June 30, 1989.

**LD 1778 An Act to Ensure Fairness to Tenants**

**ONTP**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
CATHCART  
LAWRENCE  
O'DEA

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have increased a tenant's options when a landlord fails to correct a dangerous condition in the rental unit. Under current law, a tenant may give a landlord notice of the condition, and if the landlord fails to correct the condition within 14 days, the tenant may have the repairs performed and deduct the amount of the work from rent, to a maximum of \$100 or 1/2 the monthly rent, whichever is greater. This bill would have increased the \$100 to \$1,000, expanded the types of conditions that give the tenant a right to "repair and deduct" and permitted the tenant to vacate the rental unit without penalty if the landlord fails to repair the condition after a 2nd 14-day notice.

**LD 1828 An Act Concerning Room Requirements for Hotels under the Liquor Licensing Laws**

**PUBLIC 583**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
MILLS  
ERWIN  
PLOURDE

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
S-268

**SUMMARY**

This bill reduces the number of rooms a hotel must have to qualify for a liquor license.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-268) divides municipalities into 2 categories based on population, instead of 3 categories as provided in current law and the bill. The amendment requires the same number of rooms as current law for municipalities under 3,000 population and over 7,500 population, but reduces the number of rooms required for municipalities with population between 3,000 and 7,500. The amendment also provides that population is determined by reference to the 1960 federal census, unless the municipality has experienced a substantial drop in population since 1960. In that event, the population figures are taken from the most recent federal decennial census.