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
P&S XXX
RESOLVE XXX
CON RES XXX
EMERGENCY
CARRIED OVER
ONTP
LVWD
INDEF PP
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT
DIED BETWEEN BODIES
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE
VETO SUSTAINED
UNSIGNED
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT

Chapter # of enacted Public Law
Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
Chapter # of enacted Resolve
Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
Bill carried over to Special Session
Ought Not to Pass report accepted
Leave to Withdraw report accepted
Bill Indefinitely Postponed
Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
House and Senate disagree; bill died
Committee of Conference formed but unable to agree
Legislature filed to override Governor's Veto
Not signed by Governor within 10 days
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.

LD 2033

An Act to Clarify the Conduct of Proceedings in Child **Protection Cases**

ONTP

ONTP

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

GEAN

GILL

GOODRIDGE

SUMMARY

Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 35 directs that mental or physical examinations of a party or person be conducted by a physician. Section 1 of the bill revised the law to provide that, under the child protection laws, these evaluations may be conducted by other qualified professionals.

Section 2 of the bill provided that the written reports of mental health professionals regarding other parties in a child protection proceeding must be treated the same as reports regarding a child.

LD 2037

An Act Authorizing Court Clerks to Sign Abstracts of Certain **Proceedings Involving Real Estate**

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

MARSANO

REED W

HANLEY

PARADIS P

SUMMARY

The bill authorized court clerks to sign abstracts of certain judicial procedures that are currently required to be prepared, signed by a judge and recorded in the registry of deeds.

See LD 2124.

LD 2040

An Act to Increase the Penalties for Committing Repeated Crimes against the Person and Repeated Acts of Domestic Violence

PUBLIC 866

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-1068

CATHCART

HOLLOWAY

RICHARDS

STEVENS P

SUMMARY

The bill enhances the classification of the crime of assault in much the same way as the crime harassment was enhanced by Public Law 1991, chapter 566. This bill increases the class level of assault by one class in each instance if the person committing the assault has 2 or more prior convictions for assault within the immediately preceding 5 years.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1068): The amendment replaces the bill but carries out the original intent to make repeated assaults against members of the actor's family or household a more serious crime. This amendment does not include the provisions in the original bill regarding additional enhancement of penalties for extremely young victims of assault. The current Class C classification is retained for assaults against victims under 6 years of age.