

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

JULY 1993

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Sen. Donald E. Esty, Jr.
Sen. Jeffrey H. Butland***

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**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

JULY 1993

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.

The committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. 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

P&S XXX

RESOLVE XXX

CON RES XXX

EMERGENCY

CARRIED OVER

ONTP

ENACTMENT FAILED

INDEF PP

FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT

FAILED MANDATE 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 Second Session

Ought Not to Pass report accepted

Bill failed to get majority vote

Bill Indefinitely Postponed

Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote

Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote

House & Senate disagree; bill died

Committee of Conference formed but unable to agree

Legislature failed 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.

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

4693NRG

Joint Standing Committee on State & Local Government

LD 9 An Act Prohibiting Political Activity by Members of the Workers' Compensation Board

VETO SUSTAINED

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED	
PEARSON	OTP-AM	MAJ	H-130	JOSEPH
	ONTP	MIN	S-37	

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits a member of the Workers' Compensation Board from participating in partisan political activities during that member's term and for one year following the expiration of that term.

The committee amendment (S-37) replaces the original bill and establishes restrictions on political activities for board members. The amendment also exempts current board members from the restriction, and applies only to those board members appointed after the effective date of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A, section 151, subsection 1-A.

The House amendment (H-130) makes a technical correction by replacing the ambiguous term "local."

LD 57 An Act Providing for the Election of Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED	
LUTHER	ONTP	MAJ		
	OTP-AM	MIN		

SUMMARY

Presently, the 3 commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission are appointed by the Governor subject to legislative approval. Under this bill those commissioners are elected. The chair of the commission is elected statewide. The other 2 commissioners are elected from the first and 2nd congressional districts. The first election is to be held in November 1994. The terms of elected commissioners are for 6 years, staggered 2 years apart. The terms of the initial commissioners are for 2, 4 and 6 years. Terms of the commissioners begin on December 1st after election and end on November 30th of the last year of their terms.

This bill requires that candidates for chair of the commission file, under Maine's election laws, a petition for nomination signed by at least 2,000 and not more than 3,000 voters. A candidate for commissioner other than for chair must submit a petition signed by at least 1,000 and not more than 1,500 voters. In order to promote nonpartisanship in the nomination of candidates for these offices, candidates may not be nominated by party primary elections.

LD 71 An Act to Establish the Boundary Between Enfield and Passadumkeag

P & S 8

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED	
PEARSON	OTP			

SUMMARY

This bill describes with greater certainty the location of a portion of the common boundary between the Town of Passadumkeag and the Town of Enfield.

LD 72 An Act to Establish Certain Voting Rights for Landowners ONTP

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
SUMMERS ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill enables a person who owns property in a town or municipality, but who resides elsewhere, to vote on town or municipal affairs that would have a fiscal impact on that person.

LD 79 An Act to Preserve Maine's Part-time Citizen Legislature by Making the Legislative Process More Efficient and Less Costly to Maine Taxpayers ONTP

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

SUMMARY

This bill reduces the salaries of Legislators by 20% from the statutorily authorized amount, shortens the legislative sessions, prohibits all Friday sessions except during the last 4 Fridays of a regular session and establishes an earlier cloture date for the first regular session.

LD 81 An Act to Reduce the Number of Full-time Legislative Staff Employees ONTP

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
HANLEY ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill limits the number of full-time legislative staff members to 85. The bill freezes the number of members at its October 1, 1993 level. No new member will be hired until that number has been reduced to 85 full-time staff members. Thereafter, any vacant positions will be filled at the discretion of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council.

LD 104 An Act to Expand the Membership of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws INDEF PP

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
OTT OTP-AM H-26

SUMMARY

This bill allows a person who has been president, secretary or chair of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws to serve indefinitely as an additional Maine commissioner. This change allows former Chief Justice McKusick to serve as a Maine commissioner.