

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TRANSPORTATION

JULY 1993

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Staff:
Jill Ippoliti, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101, State House Station 13
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670

*Denotes Chair

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CARRIE C. McFADDEN, RESEARCHER

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
ROOM 101/107/135
STATE HOUSE STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL: (207) 287-1670
FAX (207) 287-1275

**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	<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 Second Session</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
ENACTMENT FAILED	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	<i>Committee of Conference formed but unable to agree</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 session ended; bill died</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.

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

SPONSOR(S)
STROUT
PARADIS J

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-183
S-127 BRANNIGAN

SUMMARY

This bill makes the following changes to the motor vehicle laws.

1. The bill makes the class of license that a person must have to operate certain combination vehicles dependent on the actual gross weight or the gross vehicle weight rating of the trailer.
2. The bill deletes the requirement that an operator must turn off fog lamps with an intensity greater than 20,000 candlepower when approaching an oncoming vehicle within 500 feet or following another vehicle within 100 feet.
3. The bill makes it clear that speed measured by a laser or a skytimer device is *prima facie* evidence of the speed of a vehicle.
4. The bill expands the definition of drugs under the operating-under-the-influence laws to include any substance that can impair safe motor vehicle operation.
5. The bill raises the surcharge of a person convicted of operating under the influence of drugs or a combination of drugs and alcohol from \$30 to \$125. The increase reflects the additional cost of laboratory analysis of specimens taken from those individuals.
6. The bill changes the person responsible for adopting rules governing lights and brakes on motor vehicles from the Commissioner of Public Safety to the Chief of the State Police. Further, it prohibits equipping a vehicle with, using or selling any aftermarket equipment that is contrary to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29 or rules adopted by the Chief of the State Police.
7. The bill makes it clear that light transmittance certificates issued to a commercial installer of window-tinting material remain the property of the State and must be returned if the installer is adjudicated to have violated the law governing window-tinting material. The installer may apply for reissuance 6 months after the date of adjudication.
8. The bill allows the installation of reflective material on school buses.
9. The bill clarifies the definition of a part-time inspection station.

The committee amendment (H-183) corrects a technical problem in the law to distinguish a Class C from a Class B motor vehicle operator's license. It strikes the section that expanded the definition of drugs. It also strikes 2 sections with provisions that have been addressed in other bills this legislative session. Those provisions relate to the dimming of lights and reflective strips on school buses.

The committee amendment also makes language changes to clarify certain provisions of the original bill.

The Senate amendment (S-127) eliminates the General Fund appropriation and replaces it with a federal allocation.