

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
116TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY

JULY 1993

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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:

<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill carried over to Second Session</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
<i>ENACTMENT FAILED</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference formed but unable to agree</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<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.

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**LD 627      An Act to Amend the Adult Protective Services Act      ONTP**

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

**SUMMARY**

The bill would have allowed a current employer or other person who in good faith has reported an individual to the Department of Human Services for suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation to share this information with a person seeking an employment reference or anyone currently employing such an individual.

**LD 632      An Act to Protect the Identity of Minor Witnesses in Criminal Trials      ONTP**

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

**SUMMARY**

The bill would have allowed the court to close the courtroom to all but persons necessary to the proceedings when a victim or witness is testifying in a criminal proceeding and the victim or witness is under 16 years of age. In addition, lists of grand jury witnesses that are released to the public could not include the name of any person testifying during a proceeding closed to protect the victim or witness.

**LD 649      An Act Regarding Priorities in the Probate Code      PUBLIC 109**

**SPONSOR(S)                      COMMITTEE REPORT                      AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
FARNSWORTH                                      OTP-AM                                      H-140

**SUMMARY**

The bill allows a person who does not have priority to be appointed as a personal representative in informal proceedings. Current law only allows for appointment of such a person through formal proceedings.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-140) clarifies language.

**LD 657      An Act to Charge a Fee for Superior Court and District Court File Searches for Criminal Convictions      ONTP**

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

**SUMMARY**

The bill would have directed the Supreme Judicial Court to adopt rules charging a fee for searches of court records for criminal conviction records.