

# 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:

*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

**LD 903**

**An Act to Bring the Bureau of State Police, the Department of the Attorney General and the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency into Conformity with the Criminal History Record Information Laws**

CARRIED OVER

**SPONSOR(S)**  
PARADIS P

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

The bill repeals the separate sections of Maine law dealing with the access to criminal, investigative or administrative records of the Bureau of State Police, the Department of the Attorney General and the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency and brings them into conformity with the criminal history record information laws that other criminal justice enforcement agencies use. The bill also allows access to those records of the State Police currently available to the public but not covered by other laws. It also resolves conflicting amendments to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 16, section 614 created by the enactments of Public Law 1991, chapters 729 and 837.

See also LD 240.

**LD 919**

**An Act to Extend the Commission to Study the Future of Maine's Courts**

PUBLIC 56

EMERGENCY

**SPONSOR(S)**  
CONLEY

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-66 CHONKO

**SUMMARY**

The Commission to Study the Future of Maine's Courts has submitted its final report and recommendations to be presented to the Governor, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court and the Legislature. The commission is funded through grants, and official statutory authority to continue through August 1st of this year will be helpful for the commission to carry out its obligations under the law and grant contacts and will allow the commission to assist in the implementation of its recommendations. The retroactivity clause makes it clear that the commission's authority does not expire on February 28, 1993.

Enacted without reference to Committee.

House Amendment "A" (H-66) adds a fiscal note.

**LD 942**

**An Act to Amend the Adoption Laws**

CARRIED OVER

**SPONSOR(S)**  
CAHILL

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

The bill is a recodification and revision of the adoption laws. It incorporates the recommendations of the Adoption Task Force, which studied adoption issues for a year and issued its report in March 1988.

The policies and procedures established in the bill are designed: to ensure that the decision to place a child for adoption is not hurried or coerced and is made willingly with sufficient information and counseling; to place all children eligible for adoption into permanent homes as quickly and as safely as possible once the decision is made; to ensure that adoptive families have the same rights, privileges and responsibilities as all families; and to allow for greater access by birth parents, adoptees and adoptive parents to certain information.