

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
TRANSPORTATION

MAY 1998

*MEMBERS:*

*Sen. William B. O'Gara, Chair*  
*Sen. John T. Jenkins*  
*Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy*

*Rep. Joseph D. Driscoll, Chair*  
*Rep. Gerald N. Bouffard*  
*Rep. Paul Chartrand*  
*Rep. Charles D. Fisher*  
*Rep. Gary J. Wheeler*  
*Rep. David A. Lindahl*  
*Rep. Dean F. Clukey*  
*Rep. Steven M. Joyce*  
*Rep. Christine R. Savage*  
*Rep. Robert J. Winglass*

*Staff:*

*John G. Kelley, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis*  
*Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station*  
*Augusta, ME 04333*  
*(207)287-1670*



**Maine State Legislature**  
**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013  
 Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
 Fax: (207) 287-1275

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees**  
**May 1998**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet ([www.state.me.us/legis/opla](http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla)).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

- CON RES XXX*..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
- CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
- DIED BETWEEN BODIES*.....House & Senate disagree; bill died
- DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
- EMERGENCY*.....Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Bill failed to get majority vote
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*.....Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
- INDEF PP*.....Bill Indefinitely Postponed
- ONTP*..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
- OTP ND*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
- OTP ND/NT*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
- P&S XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
- PUBLIC XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
- RESOLVE XXX*..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
- UNSIGNED*.....Bill held by Governor
- VETO SUSTAINED*.....Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 750 increases the state reimbursement of municipal law enforcement officers for each day or part of a day they are required to appear in District Court from \$10 to \$25 a day, clarify that the reimbursement is paid to the municipality and clarify that the reimbursement is \$25 regardless of whether the officer is appearing during regular working hours, while off duty or while working overtime. The law also provides for the payment of the \$25 flat fee for each day a county law enforcement officer, designated by that officer's county, serves as the court officer to handle the county's case load before the court.

The bill creates a separate fund out of which the Administrative Office of the Courts pays the reimbursements to the municipalities and counties. Six percent of all traffic infraction revenue would be deposited in the fund.

It makes permanent the prohibition in Public Law 1997, chapter 392 on municipalities adopting ordinances that are the same as or conflict with the state laws governing speed and other traffic control limits.

The amendment transfers the estimated remaining balance in the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund into the General Fund no later than December 31, 1998.

It also amends Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part S to move up the transfer of funds from the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund from the end of fiscal year 1998-99 to no later than December 31, 1998.

It also amends Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part T to move up the repeal of the Tax Relief Fund for Maine Residents and the Tobacco Tax Relief Fund from June 30, 1999 to December 31, 1998.

**LD 2150**

**An Act to Create a Maine Children's Trust Fund Registration Plate**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
KONTOS

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2150 proposed to authorize a children's trust motor vehicle registration plate, with revenues, after administrative costs, to be paid to the Maine Children's Trust Incorporated for programs to prevent child abuse and neglect.

**LD 2164**

**Resolve, to Enhance the Economy and Tourism Industry in Hancock County and Western Washington County by Requiring the Implementation of the Biennial Transportation Improvement Program Regarding Shared Use of the Calais Branch Rail Line**

**ONTP**