

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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
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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).

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

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POVICH RUHLIN	ONTP	

LD 2164 proposed to direct the Department of Transportation to implement those portions of its biennial transportation program covering the shared use of the Calais branch rail line from Brewer to Harrington in time for the 1999 tourist season.

LD 2187 Resolve, to Name the New Bridge on Route 157 in Medway the Harold C. Beathem Bridge RESOLVE 97

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MICHAUD STANLEY	OTP-AM	S-495

LD 2187 proposed to name the new Route 157 bridge in Medway the Harold C. Beathem Bridge.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-495) proposed to change the title of the resolve to specify the bridge being named. The amendment also proposed to note that Harold C. Beathem was a respected community leader from Medway. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the resolve.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 97 names the new Route 157 bridge in Medway the Harold C. Beathem Bridge in memory of a respected community leader from Medway.

LD 2188 Resolve, to Name the Bridge on Route 236 the Jeffrey Curley Bridge ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WRIGHT LAWRENCE	ONTP	

LD 2188 proposed to require the bridge over the Great Works River in South Berwick be known as the Jeffrey Curley Bridge.

LD 2193 An Act to Allow Tow Trucks on Posted Roads ONTP