

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

Rep. Gerald N. Bouffard

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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.

<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**

Sponsor(s)
MITCHELL E
O'GARA

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 2193 proposed to exempt tow trucks from the restriction against travel by certain vehicles over roads that are posted against such vehicles by the Department of Transportation. The exemption would apply only if the tow truck is aiding a vehicle that has broken down on the posted road or on property that is contiguous to the posted road.

LD 2195

**An Act Concerning Enforcement of Parking Spaces for Persons
with Physical Disabilities**

PUBLIC 673

Sponsor(s)
MURRAY

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-961 THOMPSON
S-538

LD 2195 proposed several changes to the handicapped parking laws. The proposal were:

1. Replace the term "handicapped parking" by the term "parking spaces designated for persons with a physical disability" or "designated parking spaces";
2. Specify the design of designated parking spaces, access aisles, curbs, signs and road gradings and apply that design to all parking lots to which the public has access. All designated parking spaces would be required to be in compliance with the bill within one year of the effective date of the bill;
3. Require placards and vehicle registrations to contain the driver's license number or state identification number of the person with a physical disability. The bill also would have repealed the fee for placards;
4. Repeal the current county and municipal volunteer parking enforcement programs. The bill would have required the Commissioner of Public Safety to develop a statewide program of county volunteer parking enforcement specialists, headed by the Director of Parking Enforcement;
5. Require vehicles parking in a designated parking space to display the placard or disability registration plates;
6. Increase the minimum amount of a ticket issued for parking unlawfully in a designated parking space from \$100 to \$250;
7. Require a person with a physical disability to exit the vehicle if the vehicle is parked in a designated parking space;
8. Make the owner of a vehicle cited for illegally parking in a designated parking space liable for payment of the citation, except that the person could rebut the presumption by providing specified documentation. The owner of a vehicle cited or another person could request a hearing to determine guilt. If the person failed to request a hearing, or requests a hearing and is adjudged guilty, that person would waive the ability to pay the minimum amount as stated on the ticket. Instead, the person would be assessed a forfeiture of between \$250 and \$500 plus court costs;