

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY**

**JULY 1999**

**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. Susan W. Longley, Chair*

*Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat*

*Sen. John W. Benoit*

*Rep. Richard H. Thompson, Chair*

*Rep. Thomas Bull*

*Rep. Charles C. Laverdiere*

*Rep. Patricia T. Jacobs*

*Rep. Charles E. Mitchell*

*Rep. William S. Norbert*

*Rep. Debra D. Plowman*

*Rep. David R. Madore*

*Rep. G. Paul Waterhouse*

*Rep. William J. Schneider*

*Rep. Donna M. Loring*

**Staff:**

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**ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees**  
**August 1999**

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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:

*CARRIED OVER*.....Bill carried over to Second Regular Session  
*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  
*ENACTMENT FAILED*..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died  
*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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

**SP 767**

**Joint Order - Relative to the Joint Select Committee to Review the Maine Tort Claims Act**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
LONGLLEY  
THOMPSON

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

SP 767, a joint order, proposed to establish the Joint Select Committee to Review the Maine Tort Claims Act to review the limitation on damages and the experience of the Legislature in acting upon claims submitted to the Legislature pursuant to 14 MRSA §8105, sub-§3. See also LD 1577.

**HP 1487**

**Joint Order - Relative to the Task Force to Develop a Plan to Implement a Pilot Program for a Public Defender’s Office**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
SKOGLUND  
ABROMSON

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

HP 1487, a joint order, proposed to establish a task force to develop a plan to implement a pilot project for a public defender’s office for Cumberland County.

**HP 1524**

**Joint Order - Relative to the Committee to Address the Recognition of the Tribal Government Representatives of Maine’s Native Sovereign Nations in the Legislature**

**PASSED**

Sponsor(s)  
BROOKS  
CATHCART

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted  
S-271

HP 1524, a joint order, proposed to establish the Committee to Address the Recognition of the Tribal Government Representatives of Maine’s Native Sovereign Nations in the Legislature. (This joint order was passed without reference to a committee.)

**Senate Amendment “A” (S-271)** proposed to establish a House Subcommittee and a Senate Subcommittee of the Committee, which are to report recommended changes in chamber rules to the Presiding Officers.

*Passed joint order summary*

Joint Order, HP 1524 establishes the Committee to Address the Recognition of the Tribal Government Representatives of Maine’s Native Sovereign Nations in the Legislature to examine the issues of voting rights, sponsorship of legislation and other relevant issues under the Constitution of Maine, Maine law and the Joint Rules of the Legislature. The order also establishes subcommittees of the House and Senate to examine the impact of chamber rules on those issues. All reports are to be submitted by December 1, 1999.