

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

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Rep. G. Paul Waterhouse

Rep. William J. Schneider

Rep. Donna M. Loring

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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).

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.