

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

JULY 1999

MEMBERS:

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Sen. William B. O'Gara
Sen. Paul T. Davis*

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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.

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice

LD 48

An Act to Amend the Definition of "Traffick" in the Drug Laws

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BENOIT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 48 proposed to amend the Maine Criminal Code by excluding the activity of growing or cultivating marijuana from the definition of "traffick." LD 2012, An Act to More Accurately Describe the Criminal Conduct Committed When a Person Grows or Cultivates Marijuana, Public Law 1999, chapter 374 incorporates LD 48.

LD 49

An Act to Amend the Drug Laws Related to Possession of a Firearm

PUBLIC 342

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BENOIT		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-278
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LD 49 proposed to amend the criminal code by excluding the mere possession of a firearm as an aggravating factor in an offense of trafficking or furnishing scheduled drugs. This bill proposed to require that the firearm be somehow directly related to the criminal activity; the defendant must have used, carried or been armed with a firearm while engaged in trafficking or furnishing a scheduled drug in order for the offense to be elevated to the aggravated category. This change to the criminal code would make Maine law consistent with federal law, 18 United States Code, Section 924 (1976), which aggravates drug offenses whenever a defendant "uses or carries" a firearm, but not when a firearm is merely somewhere on the premises when a drug offense occurs.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-278) proposed to specify that for possession of a firearm to be an aggravating factor in an offense of trafficking or furnishing scheduled drugs, a person must possess the firearm in furtherance of the offense. This is consistent with 18 United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A). The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 342 amends the criminal code by specifying that for possession of a firearm to be an aggravating factor in an offense of trafficking or furnishing scheduled drugs, a person must possess the firearm in furtherance of the offense. This is consistent with 18 United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A).

Note: LD 2255, An Act to Make Corrections to Laws Recently Enacted by the 119th Legislature, Public Law 1999, chapter 531 corrects conflicts that were created when P. L. 1999, c. 342 and other drug laws were enacted simultaneously.

LD 65

An Act to Increase the Length of Probation for Domestic Violence from one Year to 2 Years

**DIED IN
CONCURRENCE**