

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
TRANSPORTATION**

**JULY 1999**

**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. William B. O'Gara, Chair*

*Sen. Judy Paradis*

*Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy*

*Rep. Joseph M. Jabar, Sr., Chair*

*Rep. Gerald N. Bouffard*

*Rep. Charles D. Fisher*

*Rep. Gary J. Wheeler*

*Rep. Laura J. Sanborn*

*Rep. David A. Lindahl*

*Rep. Christine R. Savage*

*Rep. Robert A. Cameron*

*Rep. Edgar Wheeler*

*Rep. Ronald F. Collins*

**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.

**LD 218**

**An Act Concerning Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees**

**ONTP**

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

LD 218 proposed to make the inspection fee for a motor vehicle the same throughout the State.

**LD 221**

**An Act to Require Helmets for Children when Riding Bicycles, All-terrain Vehicles or Snowmobiles**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BAKER GOLDTHWAIT	ONTP	

LD 221 proposed to require a person under 18 years of age who operates or is a passenger on a bicycle, ATV, snowmobile or any other motorized vehicle to wear a helmet.

**LD 222**

**An Act to Alter the Firefighter License Plate**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HONEY KILKELLY		

LD 222 proposes that the Secretary of State design a firefighter registration plate that uses the Maltese cross in addition to the current "FF."

**LD 227**

**An Act to Further Decriminalize Operating an Unregistered Vehicle**

**PUBLIC 68**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THOMPSON	OTP-AM	H-83

LD 227 proposed to decriminalize operating an unregistered vehicle when the registration has expired within the last 120 days and to clarify that the owner of the vehicle is responsible for registering a vehicle that is operated on a public way.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-83)** proposed to redefine those offenses in the bill as a traffic infractions and to make failure to register a vehicle a civil violation instead of a Class E crime. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 68, decriminalizes operating an unregistered vehicle when the registration has expired within the last 120 days, clarifies that the owner of the vehicle is responsible for registering a vehicle that is operated on a

public way and redefines those offenses as a traffic infractions. This law also makes failure to register a vehicle a civil violation instead of a Class E crime.

**LD 229**                      **An Act to Aid Enforcement of the Laws Regarding Insurance for Motor Vehicles**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GAGNE FERGUSON	ONTP	

LD 229 proposed to require that automobile insurance companies notify insurance holders at least 10 days before that policy is due to expire.

**LD 236**                      **Resolve, to Name the Bridge Between Bath and Woolwich the Sagadahoc Bridge**                      **RESOLVE 1**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SMALL	OTP	

LD 236 proposed to name the new bridge between Bath and Woolwich the Sagadahoc Bridge.

*Enacted law summary*

Resolve 1999, chapter 1, names the new bridge between Bath and Woolwich the Sagadahoc Bridge.

**LD 247**                      **Resolve, to Improve Access to the Maine Turnpike**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 247 proposed that the Maine Turnpike Authority install and maintain a barrier toll facility between exit 5 and exit 6 on the Maine Turnpike by July 1, 2002.

**LD 265**                      **An Act to Provide for License Plates in Support of Domestic Violence Prevention Programs**                      **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BAGLEY PENDLETON		

LD 265 proposes to establish the Domestic Violence Prevention Fund and the domestic violence prevention registration plate, under which \$14 of the registration fee is dedicated to domestic violence prevention programs.