

# **MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE**

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STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
LEGAL AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

JULY 1999

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*Sen. Richard J. Carey*  
*Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr.*

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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:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i> .....	<i>Bill carried over to Second Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>ENACTMENT FAILED</i> .....	<i>Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i> .....	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i> .....	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

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.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-262)** proposed to change the year the referendum question to extend term limits will be placed on the statewide ballot from 2000 to 1999. This amendment was not adopted.

**House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-707)** proposed to require the extension of term limits for elected officials and constitutional officers as proposed in the bill to be submitted to the voters of this State only if, within 90 days of adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature, Legislators gather a number of signatures greater than or equal to 10% of the number of votes cast for Governor in the 1998 gubernatorial election. Signatures must be collected in each county. This amendment was not adopted.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-438)** proposed to prevent those elected officials and constitutional officers that are in office on July 1, 1999 from benefiting from the extension of term limits and would change the referendum question to reflect this limitation. This amendment was not adopted.

**LD 1102**                      **An Act to Reduce the Limitations on Nonprofit Organizations Holding Games of Chance**                      **PUBLIC 295**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CAMERON	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-468
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LD 1102 proposed to allow nonprofit organizations to conduct games of chance once every six months for a maximum of three consecutive days. This bill removes that restriction.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-468)** proposed to remove the restriction in current law regarding the number of licensed games of chance that may be operated by nonprofit organizations. This amendment would restore the restrictive language. It further proposed to amend the bill by changing current law, which allows nonprofit organizations to conduct games of chance once every six months for a maximum of three consecutive days, to allow for games to be conducted once every three months for two consecutive days.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 295 amended existing law which allowed nonprofit organizations to conduct games of chance once every six months for a maximum of three consecutive days, to allow for games to be conducted once every three months for two consecutive days. This increases the number of days a nonprofit can conduct games from six to eight per calendar year.

**LD 1124**                      **Resolve, to Allow David Prentiss to Sue the State**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'NEAL CAREY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1124 proposed to authorize David Prentiss to sue the State. The resolve would have authorized David Prentiss to recover damages up to \$70,000 that were incurred due to the mislabeling by the Department of Environmental Protection of his business property as contaminated.