

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).

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 1466

An Act to Maintain Responsible Taste Testing

ONTP

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

LD 1466 proposed to require that any retail liquor licensee engaged in taste testing of wine designate an employee who is responsible for the activities of all persons conducting the tasting event and is present for the duration of the taste testing.

LD 1492

An Act to Propose Changes to the Maine Election Laws

PUBLIC 264

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STANWOOD	OTP-AM	H-469

LD 1492 proposed to expand access to the ballot by presidential and vice-presidential candidates of nonqualified parties. Under this bill, these candidates are given the choice of filing by petition, as authorized by current law, or by paying a filing fee to the Secretary of State. The bill also proposed to provide for later petition filing dates.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-469), which was not adopted, proposed to replace the entire bill. It extends the date for filing nomination petitions for a slate of candidates for the office of presidential elector with the Secretary of State and the municipality.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 264 extends the deadlines from May 25 to August 8th of election year, in which the petitions will be used for filing nomination petitions for a slate of candidates for the office of presidential elector with the Secretary of State and the municipality.

LD 1503

An Act to Require any Person or Organization That Gathers Signatures on Petitions for Referendum Questions to Make Full Financial Disclosure to the Commission on Governmental Ethics

ONTP

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

LD 1503 proposed to require a person, firm or organization that contracts, subcontracts or agrees for compensation to circulate a petition for the constitutional procedure of direct initiative of legislation or people's veto to file monthly reports with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. Information in the report must include the names and addresses of the person, firm or organization responsible for the collection of signatures and the amount of payments made to the person, firm or organization and its directors. Also required under this proposal were the names, addresses and length of residency in Maine of any persons hired or used to circulate the petition.