

# 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*

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*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](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 1593****An Act to Ban Partial Birth Abortion****DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|                   | ONTP MAJ<br>OTP-AM MIN  |                           |

LD 1593 is an initiated bill. It prohibits partial-birth abortions except when such an abortion is necessary to save the life of the mother. It proposed that violation of the prohibition is a Class D crime, and that the physician performing the abortion is subject to damages in a civil suit. As proposed, the mother may not be prosecuted.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-627)**, the minority report of the committee, proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Because the bill was not enacted by the Legislature without change, pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 of the Maine Constitution, the proposed language will appear as a referendum question submitted to voters.

**LD 1603****An Act to Amend the Wrongful Death Laws****CARRIED OVER**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| LAFOUNTAIN        |                         |                           |

LD 1603 proposes to eliminate the current cap of \$150,000 that may be awarded in wrongful death actions for loss of comfort, society and companionship and the current cap of \$75,000 that may be awarded in punitive damages.

This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.

**LD 1620****Resolve, to Extend the Statute of Limitations for Victims of Abuse at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf** **CARRIED OVER**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| TOWNSEND          |                         |                           |

LD 1620 proposes to allow any person who was a student at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf between 1974 and 1998 to bring an action against the school notwithstanding any provision of the law limiting the time period for which an action may be commenced or concerning the Maine Tort Claims Act. The resolve proposes that a person bringing an action pursuant to this resolve has 3 years from the effective date of the resolve to file the action. This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.

**LD 1670****An Act to Amend the Conservation Easement Laws****ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| DUNLAP            | ONTP                    |                           |

LD 1670 proposed to require a change in the boundaries of a leasehold that affects a conservation easement to be approved by both the owner of the leased property and the holder of the easement and to require that the holder's approval be made by private and special law if the holder of the easement is the State.