

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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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.

Public Law 1999, chapter 248 clarifies that the seven-day notice for nonpayment evictions, ground for termination notice, and writ of possession only apply to tenancies at will and not leasehold tenancies.

LD 1796

An Act to Improve the Absentee Voting Process

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAGGETT TUTTLE		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1796, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to allow any voter to vote by absentee ballot at any election, and would remove the current provision stating reasons for permitting a person to vote by absentee ballot. This bill also would clarify the procedures for requesting and issuing an absentee ballot. The bill further is proposing to refine the procedure for a candidate or a candidate's representative to inspect absentee ballot applications and envelopes on election day before the ballots are processed.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Secretary of State.

LD 1801

An Act to Enable Small Wineries to Do Business in Maine

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KONTOS TUTTLE		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1801 proposed to lower the fee for a certificate of approval for a manufacturer or foreign wholesaler of wine who ships 120 gallons of wine per year or less from \$600 to \$100.

LD 1816

An Act to Revise the Harness Racing Laws Regarding Off-track Betting

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> COWGER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1816 proposed to establish a 20-mile radius market area for off-track betting facilities.

LD 1817

An Act to Facilitate the Recruiting of Ballot Clerks

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> COWGER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1817 proposed to require an employer to allow an employee to take time off to serve as an election worker without using personal, vacation or sick time. The employer would have had to pay to an employee who takes such time off a sum that, when added to the remuneration provided by the municipality, would equal the employee's normal wages for an eight-hour work day.