

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LEGAL AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

JULY 2000

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of 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:

- 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
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*..... Bill failed to get majority vote
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*..... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
- 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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
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Election Practices. The amendment also proposed to add an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 645 allows a voter to vote by absentee ballot at any election and removes past requirements for stating the reason for permitting a person to vote by absentee ballot. This law also clarifies the procedures for requesting an absentee ballot. This law imposes an earlier deadline on candidates who wish to inspect absentee ballots before they are processed. A candidate must notify the clerk by 5 pm the day before an election regarding the intent to inspect. The candidate then has 30 minutes to inspect absentee ballots.

Public Law 1999, chapter 645 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 10, 2000.

LD 1901

An Act to Prohibit the Scalping of Entertainment Tickets

**DIED IN
CONCURRENCE**

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

LD 1901 proposed to make it unlawful to resell a ticket to a sporting event or other public entertainment at a public facility at an inflated price, a practice commonly known as "ticket scalping."

Committee Amendment "A" (H-774) proposed to strike from the original bill, a section defining a "service charge" for the resale of a ticket to a theatrical exhibition, sporting event or public amusement. It also proposed to exempt ticket-selling businesses that are registered or certified to do business in the State from the provisions set out by the amended bill. The amendment would have added a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1932

An Act to Create the Beano and Games of Chance Commission

ONTP

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

LD 1932 proposed to create the Beano and Games of Chance Commission. It would have replaced the Chief of the State Police as the administrator of the beano and games of chance laws with the commission. The Chief of the State Police would have remained the enforcement body with regard to beano and games of chance.

Under this proposal, the Beano and Games of Chance Commission would have consisted of 5 members appointed by the Governor and subject to approval by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over legal and veterans affairs.