

# 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. G. Paul Waterhouse*

*Rep. William J. Schneider*

*Rep. Donna M. Loring*

**Staff:**

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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 2051**

**An Act to Clarify the Immunity of Law Enforcement Officers in Enforcing Protective Orders**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUDLEY RAND		

LD 2051 clarifies that the immunity from civil liability provided under the Maine Tort Claims Act applies to law enforcement officers enforcing protective orders regardless of where those orders were issued.

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

**LD 2067**

**An Act to Expand Pretrial Services for the Bail and Supervision of Criminal Defendants Statewide**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FRECHETTE MURRAY		

LD 2067 proposes that the State Court Administrator of the Administrative Office of the Courts establish guidelines for and award contracts to providers of pretrial services.

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

**LD 2072**

**An Act to Clarify the Admissibility of Electronic Records and Signatures** **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 2072 proposes standards and procedures for the validity and admissibility into evidence in a legal proceeding of electronic records and proposes that an electronic signature have the same legal force and effect as a manual signature.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services.

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

**LD 2117**

**An Act to Improve Responsible Check Writing**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SNOWE-MELLO	ONTP	

LD 2117 proposed to require any person writing a check to provide that person's name, address, phone number and identification. It also proposed to require a notice for nonpayment of a check to state that failure to honor the debt may constitute a criminal offense that may result in a fine or imprisonment.