

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.

LD 2061

An Act to Enhance Harness Racing in the State

INDEF PP

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

LD 2061 proposed to authorize the operation of video lottery terminals at existing regulated pari-mutuel facilities and establish the State's share of net terminal income at 40%.

This bill was not referenced to a committee.

LD 2133

Resolve, Directing the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to Simplify the Reporting Form for Candidates CARRIED OVER

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

LD 2133, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to direct the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to revert to the format used in the reporting form for candidates in 1996, except that a check-off box may be added to identify the nature of certain types of expenditures and revenues.

LD 2134

An Act to Improve Maine's Ballot Access Law

ONTP

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

LD 2134 proposed to remove the provision in current law for the establishment of a political party that requires a candidate for Governor or President from the proposed party to get 5% of the total vote cast in the last preceding gubernatorial or presidential election. It proposed to replace this provision with the requirement that provides a list of registered voters, enrolled or provisionally enrolled in the proposed party, equal at least 1/2 of 1% of the total number of Maine residents (about 6,000 voters) in order to establish the party. The bill would have also allowed for provisional enrollment in parties seeking full party status. Under this proposal, an enrollee would have been provisional until such time as the party attains full party status.

LD 2141

An Act to Remove the Limit on the Amount of Complimentary Wine that a Wine Retailer may Receive Annually CARRIED OVER

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

LD 2141, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to remove the limit on the amount of wine samples that certain retailers licensed to sell wine may receive from a small brewery, farm winery or wholesaler.