

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY

JULY 2000

**MEMBERS:**

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*Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat*

*Sen. John W. Benoit*

*Rep. Richard H. Thompson, Chair*

*Rep. Thomas Bull*

*Rep. Charles C. LaVerdiere*

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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](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:

- 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*  
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

LD 2213

**An Act to Create and Regulate the Profession of Legal Document Technician**

ONTP

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

LD 2213 proposed to create and regulate the profession of legal document technician. The bill proposed to define a legal document technician as a person who, for compensation, provides a legal form to a client or fills in, files or serves a legal form pursuant to a specific request by a client. The bill proposed to prohibit a legal document technician from providing advice, explanation, opinion or recommendation to a client concerning legal rights, remedies, defenses, options, strategies or selection of forms or any other service that the legal document technician is not specifically authorized to provide. In addition to specifying the types of services that legal document technicians may provide, the bill proposed penalties for legal document technicians who provide unauthorized services.

**LD 2226**

**An Act Relating to Remedies for Unlawful Housing Discrimination**

ONTP

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

LD 2226 proposed to amend the Maine Human Rights Act by removing limitations of attorney's fees and damages for civil actions based upon discrimination in housing.

LD 2239

**An Act to Ensure Civil Rights and Prevent Discrimination**

PUBLIC 629

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ABROMSON	OTP-AM A	S-624
SAXL M	ONTP B	
	OTP-AM C	

LD 2239 proposed to amend the Maine Human Rights Act to add “sexual orientation” to the list of prohibited bases for discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit. The bill proposed to exempt from the prohibition religious organizations that receive no public funding. The bill proposed to make clear that the change in the law does not confer legislative approval of or special rights to anyone or any group. The bill also proposed to require that it be submitted to the voters and approved at the next general election before it takes effect.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-624)**, the majority report of the committee, proposed to further define the term "sexual orientation" and to expand the exemption to all religious entities, including educational institutions and charitable nonprofit organizations that are wholly or substantially funded, controlled, managed or owned by a religious corporation, association or society. It also proposed to add 3 provisions to the construction section of the Maine Human Rights Act to clarify that, notwithstanding the exemption