

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY

JULY 2000

**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*

*Rep. Charles E. Mitchell*

*Rep. William S. Norbert*

*Rep. Debra D. Plowman*

*Rep. David R. Madore*

*Rep. G. Paul Waterhouse*

*Rep. William J. Schneider*

*Rep. Donna M. Loring*

**Staff:**

*Margaret J. Reinsch, Esq., Principal Analyst*

*Deborah C. Friedman, Esq., Senior Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis*

*13 State House Station*

*Augusta, ME 04333*

*(207)287-1670*



**Maine State Legislature  
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013  
Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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:

<i>CON RES XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i> .....	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i> .....	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

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

Second, chapter 547 gives the District Court all the jurisdiction, powers and responsibilities of the Administrative Court and eliminates the Administrative Court as of March 15, 2001. The Administrative Court Associate Judge position, currently vacant, is eliminated immediately. A District Court Judge position is created immediately, so there is no net loss of judicial resources. Chapter 547 clarifies that an expedited hearing on the emergency suspension or revocation of a license must be scheduled, but that such hearings do not take precedence over any other items on the District Court's docket.

Public Law 1999, chapter 547 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 9, 2000 except as otherwise provided.

**LD 2499**                      **An Act Concerning the Date by Which Land Must be Acquired by the Penobscot Nation**                      **PUBLIC 625**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LORING CATHCART	OTP	

LD 2499 proposed to provide that certain land acquired by the Secretary of the Interior of the United States for the benefit of the Penobscot Nation prior to January 31, 2021 be considered Penobscot Indian territory pursuant to the Act to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement, Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30, chapter 601. Current law provides that such land must be acquired prior to January 31, 2001.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 625 provides that certain land acquired by the Secretary of the Interior of the United States for the benefit of the Penobscot Nation prior to January 31, 2021 is considered Penobscot Indian territory pursuant to the Act to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement, Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30, chapter 601. Current law provides that such land must be acquired prior to January 31, 2001.

**LD 2511**                      **An Act to Preserve the Integrity of Court-ordered Child Support Obligations**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 2511 proposed that a debt on a child support order continues to be incurred by a responsible parent while that parent receives public assistance for the benefit of a biological or adopted child of that parent until the court modifies the support order that is the basis of the debt. Current law stops the accrual of a debt while the obligated parent receives public assistance.