

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Transportation*

July 2003

Members:

*Sen. Pamela Henderson Hatch, Chair
Sen. Dennis S. Damon
Sen. Christine R. Savage*

Rep. Ronld E. Usher, Chair

Rep. Boyd P. Marley

Rep. Rosaire "Ross" Paradis, Jr.

Rep. Lisa T. Marrache

Rep. Sonya G. Sampson

Rep. Terrence P. McKenney

Rep. Ronald F. Collins

Rep. Deborah K. McNeil

Rep. Arlan R. Jodrey

Rep. William P. Browne

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Maine State Legislature



Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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 committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

<i>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i>	<i>Bills carried over to the 2nd Regular Session</i>
<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 & 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>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PASSED</i>	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</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 that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

David C. Elliott, Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

LD 374 **An Act To Create Animal Shelter Special Registration Plates** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DUNLAP		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 374 proposed to create the animal shelter special registration plate and deposit part of the proceeds from the sale of the plate to the Animal Welfare Fund.

LD 379 **Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Transportation To Examine Which Aspects of the Department of Transportation's Operations Could be Privatized** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MCKENNEY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 379 proposed to direct the Commissioner of Transportation to review what aspects of the Department of Transportation's operations could be privatized. The resolve also proposed to require the department to submit a report with its recommendations by January 15, 2004 to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, which may submit legislation based on that report to the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature.

LD 387 **An Act To Exempt Biodiesel Fuel from the Special Fuel Tax** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> EDER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 387 proposed to define biodiesel fuel and exempt it from the special fuel tax.

LD 393 **An Act Authorizing the Operation of Low-speed Vehicles on Certain Roads** **PUBLIC 397
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MARLEY HALL		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-357 S-173 ROTUNDO
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LD 393 proposed to allow the registration and use of low-speed vehicles on roads with speed limits up to 35 miles per hour. The bill also proposed to exempt low-speed vehicles from inspection requirements and list the equipment required for low-speed vehicles.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-357) proposed the following:

1. To allow a low-speed vehicle to continue to be registered as an island vehicle for \$4;

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2. To establish a registration fee of \$25 for low-speed vehicles, which is equal to that of automobiles, and specify that the registration plate must bear the word "low-speed";
3. To prohibit a person from using a low-speed vehicle to take a driver's examination;
4. To specify that headlights, rear lights and seat belts must comply with state standards for automobiles and that required equipment must be in good working condition;
5. To allow a municipality or the Department of Transportation to prohibit the use of low-speed vehicles on roads when such restriction is necessary for safety;
6. To authorize the Secretary of State to adopt rules relating to the registration and operation of low-speed vehicles;
7. To specify that an operator of a low-speed vehicle must have a Class A, Class B or Class C driver's license;
8. To authorize the registration and use of low-speed vehicles in certain municipalities and islands beginning on June 1, 2003 and for all other jurisdictions, to authorize registration and use beginning September 1, 2003; and
9. To clarify that a municipality may enact a municipal ordinance to prohibit the use of low-speed vehicles.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-173) proposed to prevent a conflict by incorporating changes made to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 1752, subsection 10 in Public Law 2003, chapter 125.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 397 enacts provisions for the registration and use of low-speed vehicles on roads with speed limits up to 35 miles per hour. It authorizes the registration and use of low-speed vehicles in certain municipalities and islands beginning on June 1, 2003. For all other jurisdictions, the registration and use of these vehicles is authorized beginning September 1, 2003. A municipality may prohibit use of low-speed vehicles by municipal ordinance. A municipality or the Department of Transportation may prohibit the use of low-speed vehicles on roads when such restriction is necessary for safety.

Public Law 2003, chapter 397 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 3, 2003.

LD 406

Resolve, To Designate Route 201 as Part of the East-West Highway

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
HATCH PH

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 406 proposed to designate Route 201 from Skowhegan to Jackman as an alternate route on the East-West Highway.