

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Judiciary*

July 2003

Members:

Sen. Peggy A. Pendleton, Chair

Sen. Mary R. Cathcart

Sen. Chandler E. Woodcock

Rep. William S. Norbert, Chair

Rep. Thomas D. Bull

Rep. Deborah L. Simpson

Rep. Stan Gerzofsky

Rep. Philip R. Bennett, Jr.

Rep. Janet T. Mills

Rep. Roger L. Sherman

Rep. Roderick W. Carr

Rep. Brian M. Duprey

Rep. Joan Bryant-Deschenes

Rep. Donna M. Loring

Staff:

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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 Judiciary

LD 675

An Act To Allow Copies of E-9-1-1 Tapes To Be Admitted into Evidence

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAFOUNTAIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 675 proposed to allow copies of audio recordings of E-9-1-1 calls to be admitted into evidence if properly authenticated.

LD 701

An Act Regarding the Suspension of Licenses for Failure To Pay a Fine

PUBLIC 193

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MILLS J WOODCOCK		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-128
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Under current law, if a defendant in a civil or criminal adjudication fails to pay a fine or any other costs or fees assessed or imposed against the defendant, including appointed counsel fees and restitution, the court may fine the defendant in civil contempt and suspend any license, certification, registration, permit, approval or other similar document evidencing the granting of authority to hunt, fish or trap or to engage in a profession, occupation, business or industry issued by the State to the defendant.

LD 701 proposed to expand current law to allow the court to suspend the right of the defendant to apply for a license or permit. LD 701 proposed to limit the amount of the fine that may be imposed for civil contempt to \$500 and specify the manner in which the notice of suspension must be provided to the defendant. A defendant whose professional license has been suspended may have the license reinstated by paying the fine imposed by the court plus a fee of \$35.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-128) proposed to delete from the bill the proposed authority of the court to suspend the right to apply for a license or permit for nonpayment of a court fine or other assessment. It also proposed to delete the requirement that a \$35 reinstatement fee be paid before certain suspended licenses can be reinstated after paying all court fines.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 193 amends current law to allow the court to suspend the defendant's license or permit if the defendant fails to pay a fine or any other costs or fees assessed or imposed against the defendant. It also limits the amount of the fine that may be imposed for civil contempt to \$500 and specifies the manner in which the notice of suspension must be provided to the defendant.