

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Legal and Veterans' Affairs*

July 2003

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Sen. Kenneth F. Lemont
Sen. Arthur F. Mayo III*

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Rep. Kevin J. Glenn
Rep. Richard B. Brown
Rep. Randy E. Hotham*

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 Legal and Veterans' Affairs

LD 910 **An Act To Promote Candidate Accountability in Elections** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAMON		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 910 proposed to repeal the Maine Clean Election Act. This bill proposed to limit the expenditures a candidate may make in an election and proposed to include all expenditures made on behalf of the candidate as well as by the candidate. It also proposed to require the candidate to personally authorize all expenditures made on the candidate's behalf by any person, organization or committee. Under the proposed bill, fines for violations of the provisions of this bill would include a \$50 fine for every dollar over the limit a candidate may spend and a fine of \$5,000 for a person, organization or committee making an expenditure without the candidate's consent, with a second offense and subsequent offenses resulting in a \$15,000 fine and, if the offender is a political action committee, revocation of the right to operate in the State.

LD 915 **An Act Regarding Gaming Conducted by Nonprofit Organizations** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JENNINGS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 915 proposed to provide that a licensee who is licensed to operate games of chance may operate those games of chance in more than one location at the same time.

LD 929 **An Act To Specify the Size and Typeface of Disclaimers on Political Literature Not Authorized by a Candidate** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MOODY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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Current law requires that political literature that is not authorized by a candidate must clearly and conspicuously state that the communication is not authorized by any candidate. LD 929 proposed to specify the point size and typeface of this statement, as well as the exact words to be used.

LD 935 **An Act To Abolish Term Limits for Legislators** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SUSLOVIC GAGNON		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 935 proposed a referendum to be held in November 2003 that would repeal term limits for Legislators and limit the terms of legislative committee chairs to 3 legislative bienniums, in the same way that terms are limited for legislative leadership.