

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 934 **An Act To Allow the Videotaping of the Testimony of Witnesses 13 Years of Age and under in Certain Cases** **ONTP**

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

LD 934 was modeled on New Hampshire's law concerning videotaping the testimony of a victim or other witness who is 13 years of age or under when the offense being prosecuted is a sexual offense. It proposed to allow the prosecuting attorney or the victim or other witness who is 13 years of age or under to request that the testimony be videotaped. The court would have discretion whether to allow the trial testimony to be videotaped. A victim or other witness who is 13 years of age or under and whose testimony is videotaped would not be required to appear or testify in the trial. The testimony must be videotaped in front of the judge, with the prosecuting attorneys, the defendant and the defendant's attorneys present. The victim or other witness may also have a parent or other appropriate adult present during the testimony.

LD 959 **An Act To Require the Chief Medical Examiner To Perform Tests When Public Safety or Health Care Personnel Are Exposed** **ONTP**

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

LD 959 proposed to require the Chief Medical Examiner to test the body fluids of a deceased person for blood-borne pathogens if a public safety or health care worker experiences an occupational exposure to the deceased person's body fluids. See also LD 519.

LD 961 **An Act Clarifying Child Support Obligations** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'BRIEN J	ONTP	

LD 961 proposed to establish that a putative father who proves through testing or otherwise that he is not the father of a child is not responsible to pay child support for that child. See also LD 865.