

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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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 980

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Qualification of Candidates

PUBLIC 270

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> NASS		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-108
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LD 980 proposed to prohibit a candidate from switching political parties while a candidate for office during an election cycle. It also proposed to specify that a candidate is not eligible for certification as a participating candidate under the Maine Clean Election Act if that candidate has run as a nonparticipating candidate during the same election cycle.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-108) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to specify that a candidate is not eligible for certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate if the candidate has run for the same office as a nonparticipating candidate in a primary election in the same election year.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 270 specifies that a candidate is not eligible for certification as a Maine Clean Election Act candidate if the candidate has run for the same office as a nonparticipating candidate in a primary election in the same election year.

LD 981

An Act To Ensure Segregation of Spoiled, Defective and Void Ballots

PUBLIC 298

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GAGNON CLARK		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-129
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LD 981 proposed to require that spoiled ballots be packaged and returned in a segregated, labeled envelope.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-129) proposed to replace the bill and require that spoiled, defective and void ballots be segregated in labeled envelopes and packaged and returned according to the requirements for other ballots and voting materials. The Secretary of State would provide each municipal clerk with either an instructional label for each type of segregated ballot envelope or a specially printed envelope containing the label and instructions.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 298 requires that spoiled, defective and void ballots be segregated in labeled envelopes and packaged and returned according to the requirements for other ballots and voting materials. Under this law, the Secretary of State shall provide each municipal clerk with either an instructional label for each type of segregated ballot envelope or a specially printed envelope containing the label and instructions.