

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and
First Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Transportation*

August 2005

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Maine State Legislature

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122nd Legislature
First Regular Session and First Special Session

Summary of Legislation Considered by the Joint Standing Committees
August 2005

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 organized by committees 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. A subject index for each committee is included immediately before the bill summaries for that committee, and a numerical index by LD number is included 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:

- CARRIED OVER Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session
CON RES XXX..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES..... House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY..... Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT..... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP..... Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP ND..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
OTP ND/NT..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED..... Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 29, 2005; and for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session is September 17, 2005.

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 421 authorizes the Commissioner of Transportation, upon approval of the United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, to conduct a five-year pilot project allowing certain commercial vehicles at Canadian weight limits to travel from the Canadian border at Calais to Baileyville. The law requires trucks participating in the pilot project to display a credential obtained for a fee from the Secretary of State. The law also requires the Commissioner of Transportation to submit a report on the status of the pilot project and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters for presentation to the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature.

LD 360 **An Act To Allow Retired Firefighters To Retain Their Firefighter License Plates** **PUBLIC 80**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JACKSON MARTIN		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-131
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LD 360 proposed to authorize the issuance of a special license plate for retired firefighters that would fund special programs that offer fire prevention and fire safety training.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-131) replaced the bill and proposed to allow retired firefighters to retain their firefighter license plates with approval from the fire chief, assistant fire chief or acting fire chief. Upon the death of the firefighter, it proposed to allow the family of the firefighter to retain the license plate but would prohibit its use on a vehicle.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 80 allows retired firefighters to retain their firefighter license plates with approval from the fire chief, assistant fire chief or acting fire chief. Upon the death of the firefighter, the law allows the family of the firefighter to retain the license plate but prohibits its use on a vehicle.

LD 371 **An Act To Distribute Revenue in the Law Enforcement Agency Reimbursement Fund to Municipalities and Counties and To Assist Law Enforcement Officers with Unmet Catastrophic Medical Needs** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SAVAGE MARLEY		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-110
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LD 371 proposed to require that any balance in the Law Enforcement Agency Reimbursement Fund remaining at the end of the fiscal year be distributed among municipalities according to a population-based revenue-sharing formula. It proposed to provide that if a municipality does not qualify because it does not employ at least one law enforcement officer or contract with a county to provide patrol service, then the county in which that municipality is located receives the nonqualifying municipality's share of the fund.

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Committee Amendment "A" (S-110) proposed to create the Law Enforcement Benevolent Fund to be used to meet the unmet financial needs of injured and ill law enforcement officers and their families. The amendment proposed to require that 10% of any balance in the Law Enforcement Agency Reimbursement Fund at the end of the fiscal year be transferred to the Law Enforcement Benevolent Fund. It also proposed to distribute any funds remaining in the Law Enforcement Agency Reimbursement Fund after funds are transferred to the Law Enforcement Benevolent Fund to municipalities and counties according to a population-based revenue-sharing formula as provided in the original bill.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table by S.P. 640 to the next special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature

LD 375 **An Act To Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2006** **P & S 2**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 375 proposed to make allocations from gross revenues of the Maine Turnpike Authority for the payment of the authority's operating expenses for the calendar year ending December 31, 2006 in accordance with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 2005, chapter 2 makes allocations from gross revenues of the Maine Turnpike Authority for the payment of the authority's operating expenses for the calendar year ending December 31, 2006 in accordance with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6.

LD 380 **An Act To Allow Small Car Carriers To Haul the Maximum Allowed Vehicles** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PARADIS MARTIN	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 380 proposed to allow a vehicle weighing more than 10,000 pounds or combination of vehicles with dealer plates to transport 4 automobiles, trucks or truck tractors at any time.