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 Legal and Veterans' Affairs

August 2005

Members:

Sen. Kenneth T. Gagnon, Chair Sen. Elizabeth H. Mitchell Sen. Debra D. Plowman

Rep. John L. Patrick, Chair Rep. John L. Tuttle, Jr. Rep. Charles D. Fisher Rep. Patricia A. Blanchette Rep. Linda M. Valentino Rep. Randy E. Hotham Rep. Richard B. Brown Rep. Gary W. Moore Rep. David N. Ott Rep. Wright H. Pinkham, Sr. Rep. Frederick J. Moore, III

Staff:

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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, <u>History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents</u>, 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	Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	
	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE One be	ody accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	
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	
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	
OTP ND/NT	
P&S XXX	
PUBLIC XXX	
RESOLVE XXX	
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 Legal and Veterans' Affairs

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 356 requires circulators of direct initiative petitions to provide registered voters the opportunity to read the summary of the proposed direct initiative prior to signing the petition. It requires that the petition include certain statements informing potential signers that they must be afforded the opportunity to read the summary and of the costs of placing questions on a ballot. Chapter 356 provides that the placement of the summary of the proposed initiative is to be immediately following the required statements at the top of the petition.

LD 939 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Preserve the Integrity of the Citizen-initiated Petition Process

ONTP

Sponsor(s

BOWLES

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 939 proposed amending the Constitution of Maine to require that citizen initiatives that require state expenditures include either a new revenue source to fund the expenditure or identify reductions in existing state programs sufficient to offset the new expenditure.

LD 944

An Act Regarding Independent Campaign Expenditures

ONTP

MAYO

Committee Report ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 944 proposed to require that independent expenditures made during the 10 days preceding an election in races involving a Maine Clean Election Act candidate be reported to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices 48 hours before the expenditure is actually made.

LD 945 An Act To Allow the Counting of Absentee Ballots prior to Election Day

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
MAYO

Committee Report ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 945 proposed to permit a municipality to process ballots up to 2 business days prior to election day.