

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

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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 Legal and Veterans' Affairs

LD 1189

An Act To Update the Veteran Services Laws and Establish a Commemorative Program for Veterans

PUBLIC 273

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PATRICK GAGNON	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-452
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LD 1189 proposed to require that a veteran whose child qualifies for a 100% tuition waiver on the basis of the veteran's residing in this State for 5 years immediately preceding applications for aid must continue to reside in the State while the tuition waiver is in effect for the child.

The bill proposed to change the term "physical defects" to "physical disabilities."

The bill would establish a commemorative certificates, coins and medals recognition program for the State's veterans using state and private funds as well as sale proceeds to pay for the program.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-452) proposed to exempt veterans who are receiving educational benefits on or before January 1, 2006 from the continuous residency requirements of the bill. It would authorize the administrator of the Maine Veterans' Home to examine certain confidential military records. It would also add an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 273 requires that a veteran whose child qualifies for a 100% tuition waiver on the basis of the veteran's residing in this State for 5 years immediately preceding applications for aid must continue to reside in the State while the tuition waiver is in effect for the child. It exempts a veteran from the continuous residency requirements if that veteran is receiving educational benefits on or before January 1, 2006. Public Law 2005, chapter 273 establishes commemorative certificates, coins and a medals recognition program for the State's veterans using state and private funds as well as sale proceeds to pay for the program. It also authorizes the administrator of the Maine Veterans' Home to examine certain confidential military records

LD 1207

An Act To Improve the Clean Election Laws

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GAGNON TUTTLE	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1207 proposed requiring donors to make qualifying contributions under the Maine Clean Election Act directly to the candidate, the amount of which must be deducted from the clean election funds distributed to the candidate.