

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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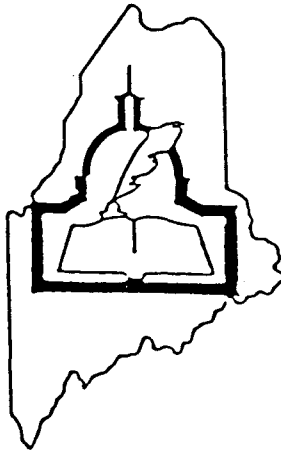
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JUNE 1984

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the Second Regular Session of the 111th Legislature. The summaries are arranged alphabetically, and indexed separately by committee.

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT
BILL SUMMARY



MAY, 1984

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<u>LD</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	(Committee Report) <u>DISPOSITION</u>
1856	AN ACT TO GRANDFATHER CERTAIN EXISTING PART-TIME LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS FROM THE REQUIREMENT TO BE TRAINED BY THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY	Violette	OTP-A PL 1983, C. 615

SUMMARY: LD 1856 proposed to "grandfather" part-time law enforcement officers employed as of September 23, 1983, from mandatory police training. This bill was in response to LD 881 which mandated police training for part-time law enforcement officers. As a result of LD 881, passed during the First Regular Session of the 11th Legislature, 1500 part-time law enforcement officers were required to obtain training provided by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. This training consists of 100 hours of instruction in courses offered in various parts (16) of the State.

According to some municipal spokespeople, some towns would not have any police protection because the part-time officers would refuse the training and give up their position. Those part-time officers, for the most part, are located in rural and secluded areas of the State and undertake these responsibilities "out-of-a sense" of duty or service to the municipality. The MMA asserts that there may be 75 persons in this category.

The proponents argued that the mandatory police officer training requirements allowed the municipalities no flexibility and threatened some municipalities with inadequate police protection. Some municipalities proposed that all constables be exempted from the law. Currently, constables who are not authorized to carry a weapon and make arrests are exempt from mandatory training. Other proponents argued that experienced but untrained law enforcement officers should be exempted from the requirements.

The opponents argued that any part-time law enforcement officer with the duties to arrest persons, operate a police cruiser, carry and use a weapon etc., should be trained in these duties and in the law. Of the 1500 part-time law enforcement officers in Maine, 917 have been trained and certified by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

The Committee passed a bill that still requires training for part-time law enforcement officers, but extends the training deadline to January 1, 1986. If there are 50-75 untrained part-time law enforcement officers who refuse the training provided by the Academy, the Legislature can examine various solutions for that particular group in 1986. This alternative is more acceptable than "grandfathering" 600 people for the sake of 50.