

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

LD:

233

AN ACT DESIGNATING THE MAINE COON CAT AS THE STATE CAT

RACINE
GWADOSKY
BROWN A
USHER

ONTP

HOUSE Enacted
SENATE Enacted
GOV SIGNED

PUBLIC
CH # 73

SUMMARY:

LD 233, which has been enacted into law, establishes the Maine Coon Cat as the "State Cat." The proponents argued that the coon cat is the only cat native to Maine (brought over from Europe in the colonial period). The proponents argued that there is a "state insect," a "state bird," a "state fish," etc. As a result, there is precedence for a "state cat."

The opponents argued that the "state animal" is the moose, and since a cat is an animal, there should be no "state cat." In addition, the opponents argued that the coon cat is a domestic animal, whereas other living state emblems are wild. Another argument against the bill pointed out that the breeders of coon cats would be the real beneficiaries, economically, of the bill. The opponents also argued that the bill would encourage submission of other bills for a state dog, and similar emblems.

The bill passed in both houses despite the committee's majority ought-not-to-pass vote.

LD:

234

AN ACT PERTAINING TO THE OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY

JALBERT
PARADIS E
CARPENTER

LV-WD

HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

LD 234 proposed to designate November 11 as Veterans Day, despite the day on which November 11 falls. Currently, Veterans Day is November 11, but is often celebrated on the Monday following the weekend on which the legal holiday periodically falls.

The Committee voted against the bill because Veterans Day is designated by current law as November 11, and celebrations can occur on the weekend rather than on the Monday following the weekend. Some members preferred a Monday celebration in lieu of the celebration on Sunday which is a holy day to some people.