

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LEGAL AFFAIRS
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: 820
EMERGENCY

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AGE 21 YEARS AS THE LEGAL
AGE TO PURCHASE OR CONSUME ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGES AND TO DETER DRINKING AND DRIVING
BY MINORS

PRAY
USHER
CROWLEY
MASTERMAN

OTP-AM HOUSE Emerg. Enacted
SENATE Emerg. Enacted
GOV

CH #402

H-417	CA	REEVES		
H-420	CA	JOSEPH		
S-118	CA	MAJ REP	H	S
S-140	SA	TRAFTON	H	S
S-261	CA	VIOLETTE		
S-264	CA	TRAFTON		
S-284	CA	BALDACCI	H	S

SUMMARY:

This bill raises the legal purchasing and drinking age to 21. This also applies to the underage OUI law. The original bill provided that those who reach 20 by April 1, 1985, (the "transition date") would be treated as 21 year olds.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-118) closes loopholes concerning the use of false identification, and prohibits possession of liquor by a minor except in the scope of his or her employment or in his or her own home. The transition date is moved to June 1, 1985, as is the effective date. There is projected loss of State revenues due to the decrease in legal purchasers. However, failure to raise the drinking age would have resulted in a loss of Federal Highway Funds.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-140) expands the work-restricted license to include an education-restricted license.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-261) (Not adopted) would have allowed liquor licensees to hire persons under 17 as long as an employee of at least 18 is present in a supervisory capacity. The effective date was moved to August 1, 1985.

Senate Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-264) (Not adopted) would have prohibited retail store liquor licensees from hiring employees under 17, and on-premise consumption licensees from hiring minors unless a person of legal drinking age is present in a supervisory capacity. The effective date was moved to July 1, 1985.

Senate Amendment "C" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-284) incorporated the employee ages of Senate Amendment "A" with an effective date of June 1, 1985.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-417) (Not adopted) would have made the same changes as Senate Amendment "B", plus would have moved the transition date to July 1, 1985.

House Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-420) (Not adopted) would have changed the effective date to September 30, 1986.