

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

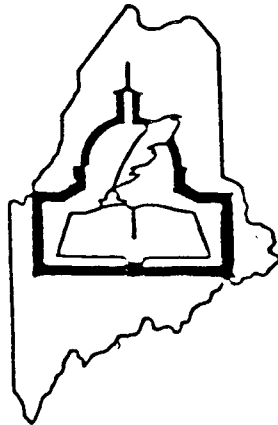
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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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: 936 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK

BOTT  
BROWN L  
STEVENSON  
CROWLEY

ND: 273

HOUSE Enacted  
SENATE Enacted  
GOV SIGNED

PUBLIC  
CH # 41

SUMMARY:

LD 936 is a new draft of LD 273.

The purpose of this bill is to designate the first full week in December of each year as Alcohol Awareness Week, and to establish and incorporate Alcohol Awareness Day as a special observance day in the public schools to be observed on the first Monday in December. The special event day known as "Temperance Day" and currently observed in the schools on March 1 has been changed to Alcohol Awareness Day to be observed on the first Monday of December during Alcohol Awareness Week.

The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Planning Committee, comprised of the Commissioners of Corrections, Educational and Cultural Services, Human Services and Mental Health and Mental Retardation, will make information available to the general public and organizations with respect to alcohol and drug use.

LD 273, the original bill, established the first week in December as Alcohol Awareness Week. The Department of Educational and Cultural Services was required to provide the schools with the information required to commemorate this observance.

LD: 943 RESOLUTION, PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF MAINE TO EXTEND THE TENURE FOR SHERIFFS FROM 2 YEARS TO 4 YEARS

TWITCHELL  
WALKER  
JACKSON

OTP HOUSE Finally Passed  
SENATE Finally Passed  
GOV

SUMMARY:

LD 943 proposes to increase the term of office for sheriff from 2 to 4 years. In addition, this proposal will be voted upon at referendum by the general electorate.

The purpose for increasing the sheriff's term to 4 years according to the Statement of Fact is to enable a sheriff to perform more efficiently. This pre-supposes that the two-year term, by itself, creates an inefficiency that cannot be overcome by any other factor. Presumably, the inefficiency results from preparing for election campaigns that occur every 2 years.

In most states, sheriffs are elected and serve four year terms. The following are exceptions to the four year term of office:

- a) Arkansas - 2 yr. term
- b) Delaware - 2 yr. term
- c) Maine - 2 yr. term
- d) New Hampshire - 2 yr. term
- e) New Mexico - 2 yr. term
- f) Oklahoma - 2 yr. term
- g) So. Dakota - 2 yr. term
- h) Tennessee - 2 yr. term
- i) Vermont - 2 yr. term
- j) New Jersey - 3 yr. term
- k) New York - 3 yr. term
- l) Massachusetts - 6 yr. term

Opponents to the bill pointed out that legislators run for office every two years, and sheriffs should not occupy special status. It was also argued that sheriffs campaign when they speak to civic and fraternal organizations and obtain public recognition. Thus, their visibility does not make campaigning every 2 years onerous nor does it make the implementation of their job inefficient.

LD: 953 AN ACT RELATING TO DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY  
TAKEN BY THE STATE

MCPHERSON  
ROLDE

LV-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report  
SENATE Accepted Committee Report  
GOV

SUMMARY:

LD 953 proposed a policy for the State with respect to the disposition of surplus real estate taken by the State by eminent domain. According to the bill:

- A. Real estate purchased or taken by the State by the power of eminent domain, all or some of which is to be subsequently sold by the State, would be first offered to the prior owner.
- B. The price at which the prior owner could purchase the real estate from the State would be fixed at the original price paid by the State to the prior owner (or the proportional price if only part of the original real estate acquisition will be sold) plus interest.
- C. The prior owner would be notified by registered mail sent to the owner's last known address. If the owner did not reply within 30 days following the mailing of the notice, the State could dispose of the property to another buyer.