

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

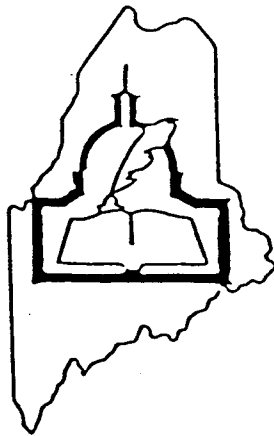
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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION
BILL SUMMARY



MAY 1986

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
MAY 1986

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

All Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor if it is a floor amendment or the designation "CA" if it is a committee amendment. If the amendment was adopted in the House, the letter H appears after the sponsor. If it was adopted in the Senate, the letter S appears.

Final action for each bill is listed to the right of the title. If final House action and Senate action differ, both are listed.

Key to Committee Reports and Floor Action:

OTP	Ought to Pass
OTP-ND	Ought to Pass in New Draft
OTP-ND-NT	Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
OTP-AM	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

Sponsor: TRAFTON
Committee Report: OTP

S-433 TRAFTON H S

SUMMARY: The purpose of this law is to increase the minimum insurance requirement for vehicles used in the transportation of students. An amendment removes reference to school buses in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29, section 831, since the measure establishes a new section dealing with higher amounts of insurance for vehicles used in transporting students.

Sponsor:
Committee Report: LVWD

SUMMARY: At the conclusion of the First Regular Session, the Legislative Council approved a study request by the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation to review railroad statutory provisions and remove those which are outdated. The need for this inquiry was first noticed by the Audit and Program Review Committee who wrote to the Transportation Committee in May of 1985 suggesting an interim study be done.

Several provisions that were identified for removal in this bill related to passenger service. Passenger service is no longer available in Maine, except for transport to and from Canada by a Canadian Railroad, and the statutory provisions in Maine law are not appropriate for contemporary passenger service, even if it were presently available. The rest of the provisions that were identified for elimination are miscellaneous items related to the operation of railroads. Their presence in Maine law is not necessary because many of the functions to which they make reference are no longer accomplished. Some of the other provisions that were considered for exclusion related to the transportation and handling of animals. The study committee learned from the Animal Welfare Board that they had already authorized the initiation of a recodification process, and they would assume responsibility for updating the provisions in question to conform with contemporary needs.

At the last minute, this legislative proposal was withdrawn because of a recommendation by the Department of Transportation to completely review Title 35 in light of the State Government's current scrutiny of Maine's railroad policy.

LD AN ACT MAKING ALLOCATIONS FROM THE HIGHWAY FUND ND LD 2346
2132 AND OTHER FUNDS FOR THE EXPENDITURES OF STATE
 GOVERNMENT AND CHANGING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF
 THE LAW NECESSARY TO THE

Sponsor: THERIAULT, Dow, Strout
Committee Report: OTP-ND

SUMMARY: See LD 2346.

LD AN ACT RELATING TO A NEW REGISTRATION PLATE INDEF PP46
2171 ISSUE SEE LD 2346

Sponsor:
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 263

H-568 NADEAU H S

SUMMARY: During the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature, the Division of Motor Vehicles requested the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation to allocate highway funds for a new general issue of registration plates in 1986. The Division of Motor Vehicles justified its request by explaining that registration plates were meant to have a useful life of 6 years, but current plates are more than 10 years old. As a result of extended exposure to the elements, many plates have deteriorated seriously and there is evidence to show that the battered and faded condition of the plates hampers law enforcement efforts.

The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation requested authorization to study this problem and to come up with a solution. In the study process, the committee learned 2 important pieces of information which point to necessary action.

1. A survey of evasion of motor vehicle registration in Maine undertaken by the Department of Transportation shows an evasion rate of 4.7% which translates into an annual loss of \$500,000 in registration fees to the Highway Fund and an annual loss of \$1,100,000 in excise tax revenues to municipalities.