

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Part I State Government

BILL SUMMARY



JUNE 1987

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JUNE 1987

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. The summaries are arranged by LD number under each committee.

All Adopted 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 "COMMITTEE" if it is a committee amendment.

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

Please let us know if you would prefer a different format or additional information and if the summaries are helpful.

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-A	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE STATE BUREAU OF
IDENTIFICATION AS AN INDEPENDENT BUREAU WITHIN
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

CARRY-OVER

Sponsor: BRANNIGAN, Lacroix, Paradis, E., Sewall
Committee Report: Carry-Over

SUMMARY: LD 135 proposed to establish the State Bureau of Identification as a Bureau within the Department of Public Safety. Currently, the Bureau of Identification is an anomaly. It is a Bureau within the Bureau of the State Police. Under LD 135, the Bureau of Identification would be given the same status as the Bureau of the State Police.

The current function of the State Bureau of Identification (SBI) is to serve as the central repository of all criminal records in the State of Maine. Its purpose is to establish a statewide comprehensive crime reporting system in order to:

- A. provide law enforcement officers with criminal statistics;
- B. provide statistics to determine the effectiveness of Maine's criminal justice system including efforts to prevent and deter crime;
- C. develop a picture of criminal activity in Maine;
- D. provide data and statistics to improve the performance and effectiveness of criminal justice agencies; and
- E. provide data and statistics to assess social and other causes of crime on which theories of criminal behavior may be developed.

The Bureau is responsible for

- A. the collection of fingerprint cards and criminal history record information;
- B. dissemination of criminal history record information to criminal justice agencies;
- C. responding to inquiries for information, including insurance companies requesting verification of claims;
- D. developing and updating the investigative reference file;
- E. the computerization of information.

The Identification Bureau is currently directed by a commanding officer who employs 12 civilian people to operate the Bureau. The Bureau, like the State Police is funded 75% by the Highway Fund and 25% by the General Fund.

The bill was redrafted to allow the SBI to charge fees to non-governmental organizations to be used to "computerize" their records. Following a ruling that the new bill (LD1722) was not germane, the bill was referred back to Committee and held over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 161 AN ACT TO IMPROVE LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC ACCESS ND LD 1651
TO THE AGENCY RULE-MAKING PROCESS
(Reported Pursuant to a Study by the Local Government Committee)

Sponsor: REPORT
Committee Report: OTP-ND LD 1651

SUMMARY: See New Draft, LD 1651.

LD 168 RESOLUTION, PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE H-ONTP
CONSTITUTION OF MAINE TO PROVIDE FOR STAGGERED S-OTP-A
4-YEAR TERMS FOR REPRESENTATIVES

Sponsor: PRAY, Tuttle, Dow, Bustin
Committee Report: OTP-A (Majority)
ONTP (Minority)

SUMMARY: LD 168 proposed to lengthen, from 2 years to 4 years, the term of office for representatives elected to the Maine House of Representatives. In addition, the terms would be staggered. Beginning in 1988, representatives in the odd-numbered districts would be elected to 4 year terms. Beginning in 1990, representatives in even numbered districts would be elected to 4 year terms.

Four states, Alabama, Louisiana, Maryland, and Mississippi, have 4 year terms for representatives. Nebraska which has a unicameral legislature also has 4 year terms. The rest of the states have 2 year terms of office for representatives elected to state legislatures.

The bill was amended in the majority report to remove the staggered elections and thereby prevent confusion among voters with respect to which seats are up for re-election, but the bill died between the houses.