

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY
BILL SUMMARY



JUNE 1987

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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

LD AN ACT TO REQUIRE MUNICIPALITIES TO PAY COURT LVWD
610 COSTS AND ATTORNEYS FEES IN CERTAIN SUITS

Sponsor: MILLS
Committee Report: LVWD

SUMMARY: This bill sought to require a municipality to pay the court costs and attorneys fees of any person who prevails in Superior Court on an appeal from a decision of the local zoning board of appeals. This bill did not propose to require a municipality to finance frivolous appeals against the decisions of its zoning board. The municipality would only have paid costs and attorneys fees when the individual actually prevailed in his appeal. If the Superior Court found that the appeal was without merit, the individual would have remained liable for his costs and attorneys fees.

LD AN ACT RELATIVE TO GUARDIAN AD LITEM LVWD
611 APPOINTMENTS IN ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS

Sponsor: McPHERSON, Rolde
Committee Report: LVWD

SUMMARY: This bill sought to appoint a guardian ad litem for any birth parent who is less than 18 years old or any child who is the subject of an adoption through an agency other than the Department of Human Services. The guardian ad litem would have been responsible for providing the birth parent with adoption materials and information including all discoverable court documents as well as agency and foster care hospital records; written information explaining legal rights and the consequences of surrender of parental rights; and information regarding post-adoption services provided by public and private agencies or organizations.

LD AN ACT CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF COSTS RELATED LVWD
630 TO ATTORNEYS CONTINGENCY FEES

Sponsor: BRANNIGAN, Black, Cote
Committee Report: LVWD

SUMMARY: LD 630 proposed to require an attorney, before entering into a contingent fee arrangement with any client, to orally and in writing inform that client that he would be liable for the attorney's 'out-of-pocket' expenses incurred in pursuing the case whether the case was won or lost. The bill also required notice to be given of specific costs chargeable to the client.