

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LEGAL AFFAIRS
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 PROVIDE A STANDARD FOR UNIFORMS FOR LVWD
939 ON-DUTY PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS

Sponsor: RUHLIN, Brawn, Hale, Greenlaw
Committee Report: LVWD

SUMMARY: This bill would set up-dated safety standards for station uniforms worn by "on-duty" career firefighters. The standards are based on the National Fire Protection Association standards to provide further protection and not negate the protective qualities of the outer garments. See also LD 1686.

LD AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING FREQUENCY OF PL 1987
946 LOCAL OPTION QUESTION ELECTIONS c. 54
EMERGENCY

Sponsor: VOSE, Randall
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 408

SUMMARY: The original bill would reduce the time between local option liquor questions from 2 years to 1 year for a vote subsequent to a "No" vote. The 2 year waiting period would be retained after a "Yes" vote.

The New Draft reduces the time between all local option votes to no less than 1 year, plus makes the bill an emergency.

LD AN ACT RELATING TO ABSENTEE BALLOTING BY PL 1987
947 RESIDENTS OF NURSING HOMES, BOARDING HOMES AND c. 62
CONGREGATE HOUSING UNITS

Sponsor: MELENDY, Holloway, Priest, Kany
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 53

SUMMARY: The original bill would set up a procedure for absentee voting in certain housing facilities.

The clerk would set a time of not less than 3 days, which are not more than 30 days before the election, during which time the clerk or deputy clerk would be present to administer the absentee balloting. Nobody in the specific facilities could otherwise vote absentee, unless the Secretary of State exempted the municipality on hardship grounds.

This new draft prohibits the clerk from delivering absentee ballots for persons living in a licensed nursing home, a licensed boarding home or certified congregate housing unit to a 3rd person whose name is on the ballot. These residents can still vote absentee by using the mail or by having a 3rd person, other than a candidate, deliver the

ballots. In addition, the municipal clerk shall designate one or more times during the 30 days before an election during which the clerk will be present in each facility for the purpose of absentee balloting by the residents.

House Amendment "A" (H-43) (not adopted) would allow candidates to deliver absentee ballots to licensed boarding homes and congregate housing, but not to nursing homes.

House Amendment "B" (H-45) (not adopted) would have deleted the provision which prohibits candidates from taking absentee ballots to nursing homes, boarding homes or congregate housing. (This amendment was improperly drafted or printed so the text did not do what the Statement of Fact outlined.)

House Amendment "C" (H-46) (not adopted) would allow the clerk to elect to follow the process for absentee ballots as created in the original bill.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-19) (not adopted) would allow a voter, who is a resident of a nursing home, boarding home or congregate housing unit, the right to request that a candidate deliver the absentee ballot.

LD 948 AN ACT RELATING TO DRINKING ON PUBLIC BEACHES PL 1987 c. 59

Sponsor: McSweeney
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 193

SUMMARY: The original bill would make it a crime for any unauthorized person to be in possession of an open container of liquor at or on a public beach, amending the Public Drinking Law.

The New Draft amends the Public Drinking Law by adding to the definition of "public place" public beaches.

LD 949 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE MAINE STATE POLICE PUBLICATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION P&S 1987 c. 47

Sponsor: BALDACCI, Martin, J., Usher
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 463

SUMMARY: The original bill would repeal the chapter of law which prohibits solicitation by or for the benefit of any law enforcement officer, agency or association.

The New Draft provides funds to help the State Police produce a publication, which must include new changes in Maine law. The funds may also be used for continuing education.