

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
113TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**



**BILL SUMMARY  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
TRANSPORTATION**

**MAY 1988**

**MEMBERS**

**Sen. Charles G. Dow \***  
**Sen. Raynold Theriault**  
**Sen. Pamela L. Cahill**

**Rep. Fred W. Moholland \***  
**Rep. Harold M. Macomber**  
**Rep. Roger M. Pouliot**  
**Rep. Frederick F. Soucy**  
**Rep. Jeffery N. Mills**  
**Rep. Polly Reeves**  
**Rep. Donald A. Strout**  
**Rep. Orland G. McPherson**  
**Rep. Daniel J. Callahan**  
**Rep. Roland S. Salsbury, Jr.**

**\* Denotes Chair**

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**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST & SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
MAY 1988**

*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 for floor amendments. Final action is listed to the right of the title. If final House and Senate action differ, both are listed. Committee Reports and Floor Action are indicated as follows::*

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>OTP</b>       | <b>Ought to Pass</b>                         |
| <b>OTP-ND</b>    | <b>Ought to Pass in New Draft</b>            |
| <b>OTP-ND-NT</b> | <b>Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title</b> |
| <b>OTP-A</b>     | <b>Ought to Pass as Amended</b>              |
| <b>ONTP</b>      | <b>Ought Not to Pass</b>                     |
| <b>LVWD</b>      | <b>Leave to Withdraw</b>                     |
| <b>INDEF PP</b>  | <b>Indefinitely Postponed</b>                |

*Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst assigned, as noted for each committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including Secretaries: Charlene Brann, Janet Jean, Earl Knox, Valarie Parlin; Research Assistant Hartley Palleschi. Finally, Secretary Lorette Knox, Legal Assistant Carolyn Chick, and Research Assistant Robert Dunn had special responsibilities in the preparation of the overall document.*

*Please give us your suggestions and comments on these summaries and tell us of any inaccuracies.*

LD An Act to Abolish the Maine Turnpike Authority  
2082

ONTP

| <u>SPONSOR(S)</u>            | <u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u> | <u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| RACINE<br>CROWLEY<br>ERWIN E | ONTP                    |                           |

SUMMARY

The bill would abolish the Maine Turnpike Authority and transfer its duties and obligations to the Department of Transportation in 1990. DOT would submit a transition plan to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, at a cost of \$25,000. The long term financial implications require study.

The Maine Turnpike Authority was studied by the Legislature in 1973 and 1978. In 1978 PL c. 658 was enacted, which would have dissolved the Authority and turned the turnpike over to DOT when the bonds were paid off, while continuing it as a toll highway. However, PL 1981, c. 492 repealed that provision and continued the Authority. Legislation in 1982 affirmed that decision and moved the enabling legislation from the Private & Special Laws to the General laws.

**LD** An Act to Prohibit the Display of Blue Lights on Vehicles **PUBLIC**  
**2092** Other than those Used by Authorized Law Enforcement Officers **644**  
and Agencies

| <u>SPONSOR(S)</u>   | <u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u> | <u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| CAHILL<br>MCPHERSON | OTP-AM                  | S-335                     |

SUMMARY

The bill makes it clear that vehicles other than law enforcement vehicles may not be equipped with or display a blue light. It also reorganizes present law, which restricts use of auxiliary lights on motor vehicles as follows:

spotlights or foglights may not shine more than 2 feet above the road at 30 feet, except for reading signs and for plowing. Foglights are white or amber.

alternate flashing headlamps are restricted to ambulance, fire, police and highway maintenance vehicles.

blue lights are to be used only by police, state fire inspectors, game wardens, marine wardens, Baxter State Park rangers, and sheriffs.

red lights are to be used only by ambulances, fire departments, city and town fire inspectors, forest fire vehicles and volunteer firefighters, volunteer rescue squad or volunteer ambulance in action; and there is a provision allowing red lights for school buses.

amber lights are to be used by highway maintenance, emergency rescue or utility emergency service vehicles or wreckers. Plowing vehicles may have a rotating flashing amber light. There is no restriction on the use of amber lights by other vehicles.

The Committee Amendment (S-335) makes technical changes and adds to the list of vehicles which may carry blue lights U.S. Government law enforcement officers and brings in liquor enforcement officers who are so authorized by Title 28-A. It also authorizes corrections personnel to use blue lights and sirens (but not to exceed posted speed) when responding to prison escapes or performing high security transfers.

LD      An Act to Create a Single Point of Contact for the Operators      PUBLIC  
2093 of Commercial Vehicles      781

| <u>SPONSOR(S)</u> | <u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u> | <u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| DOW               | OTP-AM                  | H-498    MOHOLLAND        |
| CAHILL            |                         | S-332                     |
| MOHOLLAND         |                         |                           |
| STROUT D          |                         |                           |

SUMMARY

Under present law the Commissioner of Transportation issues permits for double-bottom, oversize or overweight trucks, pneumatic tired equipment and oversize objects such as mobile homes. DOT may also prescribe a police escort and special markings in such cases. Safety requirements and permits for commercial freight and passenger carrier operations are administered and enforced by the State Police. The State Police also issue permits for vehicles transporting goods for-hire. The Division of Motor Vehicles issues vehicle registrations for fuel use reporting.

The bill would transfer all of these administrative functions and related rule-making authority to the Division of Motor Vehicles. The DMV would consult with those other agencies, and the State Police would retain their safety enforcement role, but the DMV would issue permits for establishing commercial service and would receive notice of discontinuance.

The amendment adds a section dealing with the transfer of functions and the transition. It is understood that 3 positions will be transferred from the Department of Transportation and 11 positions from the Department of Public Safety to the Division of Motor Vehicles, in addition to the new branch chief supervisor position created in the Division of Motor Vehicles by the allocation section.

Finally, the amendment adds an allocation and it modifies the effective date to allow 5 months startup time for the new person added to the Division of Motor Vehicles to supervise this operation. As amended, the bill makes an allocation of \$52,789 from the Highway Fund to the Division of Motor Vehicles.

The House Amendment (H-498) to the Committee Amendment makes technical corrections.