

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
113TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LEGAL AFFAIRS

MAY 1988

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Sen. Stephen C. Estes
Sen. Robert G. Dillenback

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* 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::

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

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 Laurette 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.

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
ALLEN HANDY PRIEST KANY	OTP-AM	H-468

SUMMARY

Current law requires municipal clerks to keep the clerk's office open for absentee voting for at least 4 hours the Saturday before a general election, which occurs every other November. The original bill would have based the requirement on regular elections.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-468) requires the Saturday hours before any statewide regular election, and any other election for federal or state office, such as a special election for State Representative.

LD	An Act Relative to the Union of the Trustees of the Maine	P & S
2192	Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and the	096
	Trustees of the New Hampshire Annual Conference of the	
	United Methodist Church	

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
WEBSTER M MACOMBER	OTP-AM	H-465

SUMMARY

The Maine Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is chartered under Maine Private and Special Laws. The Maine Annual Conference and the New Hampshire Conference will be voting to merge and incorporate under New Hampshire law. The original bill allows for the union of the 2 conferences and provides for disposition of property and other legal ramifications.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-465) provides for notification once the merger is complete.

LD	Resolve, to Compensate Kenneth and Janice Demuth	RESOLVE
2250		108

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
GAUVREAU BRAWN ALLEN	OTP-AM	S-377

SUMMARY

The original resolve would have permitted Kenneth and Janice Demuth to sue the State for damages suffered when Mr. Demuth was shot in the face while helping the State try to subdue a dangerous person. The State negotiated a settlement.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-377) requires the Governor to pay \$125,000 in settlement of all their claims to the Demuths.

LD An Act Pertaining to Fire Permit Enforcement
2254

PUBLIC
618

SPONSOR(S)

BRAWN
MELENDY
PERKINS

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-471 PRIEST
S-319 KANY

SUMMARY

New Draft Of LD 2026

Under current law, forest fire wardens can issue outdoor burning permits for any place in the State, although their usual practice is to issue the permits only for the area they cover. The original bill (LD 2026) required persons to produce the permit on demand of an authorized law enforcement officer, or face a civil forfeiture of up to \$1,000.

The New Draft (LD 2254) requires a person who is required to obtain a permit anywhere but in the unorganized area to produce the permit upon demand, or face a civil forfeiture of up to \$100.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-319) would have required that whoever issues a burning permit in a municipality to notify the town forest fire warden or fire chief.

House Amendment "A" (H-471) to Senate Amendment "A" modifies the requirement and requires that whoever issues a burning permit in a municipality notify the municipal officers or the fire chief.

LD An Act to Correct Liquor License Fees
2257

PUBLIC
632
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)

MURPHY E
DILLENBACK
KANY
PERRY

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

The license fee for full-time Class VI liquor licenses (licenses for the sale of beer to be consumed off the premises where sold) was intended to be raised from \$125 annually to \$135 annually in a restructuring of license fees made in the substantive changes to the recodification of the liquor laws. The change was inadvertently omitted from that legislation. This bill adds a \$10 surcharge on all Class VI licenses issued after September 28, 1987. (The license fee is corrected in LD 2184).