

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
113TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
JUDICIARY

MAY 1988

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Sen. Henry W. Black

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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.

LD An Act Relating to Prison Furloughs
2381

PUBLIC
729

SPONSOR(S)
CARTER
PARADIS P
CHONKO
BERUBE

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-609

SUMMARY

LD 2381 proposed to restrict the granting of unescorted furloughs to prison inmates by requiring the prior approval of a court, after notice and opportunity for hearing by the victim and prosecutor's office. The LD also required that a prisoner serve at least 50% of his original sentence (without considering good time credits) before being released on furlough and prevented the issuance of a furlough to any prisoner who had previously violated any condition of furlough.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-609) deleted the entire bill and added a restriction that a prisoner must serve at least 50% of his sentence, after considering good time credits. This restriction applies only to persons convicted after the bill's effective date.

LD An Act to Waive Filing Fees for the State in Asset
2409 Forfeiture Proceedings

PUBLIC
648
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
PARADIS P

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

LD 2409 authorizes a waiver of the normal court filing fee for the State in drug-trafficking forfeiture proceedings.

LD An Act Concerning the Penobscot Tribal Court
2440

PUBLIC
756

SPONSOR(S)
PEARSON
CASHMAN
PARADIS P
BRANNIGAN

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-482

SUMMARY

LD 2440 proposed to extend the jurisdiction of Indian tribal courts in the State to include any criminal offense punishable by up to one year imprisonment or a fine of not more than \$5,000. The LD also specified the subpoena powers of tribal courts.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-482) stripped the emergency from the LD; restricted the expanded jurisdiction to the Penobscot Indian Tribal Court only; deleted the reference to the courts' subpoena powers; and added the necessary certification clause.

LD An Act to Amend the Maine Tort Claims Act
2443

PUBLIC
740

SPONSOR(S)
BRANNIGAN
PARADIS P

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-433

SUMMARY

The bill restructures and clarifies the Maine Tort Claims Act making primarily technical changes, and with a few substantive changes. One clarification concerns immunity for discretionary acts by government employees. The bill makes it clear that this immunity is absolute: that the exercise of discretion may be covered by the immunity though this exercise was not authorized by statute or rule; that a discretionary act is covered if it was important to the functioning of the governmental activity involved; that this immunity extends to lower level employees, rather than only to those in policy-making position. A substantive change in the bill concerns defense and indemnification of government employees. The revision:

1. Requires a governmental entity to retain outside counsel for an employee, rather than assume the employee's defense, when assuming the defense would create a conflict of interest between the entity and employee; and
2. Provides that a governmental entity may recoup attorneys' fees and defense costs paid to outside counsel for the defense of an employee if the entity proves that the employee acted in bad faith. Where applicable, the governmental entity is also relieved of the obligation to indemnify an employee for punitive damages.

LD An Act to Abolish the Office of Complaint Justice and
2452 Replace it with the Office of Justice of the Peace

PUBLIC
736
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
MACBRIDE
BEGLEY
COTE
GAUVREAU

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-600
H-676 PARADIS P

SUMMARY

LD 2452 abolishes the office of complaint justice and replaces it with the office of justice of the peace.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-600) amended the LD to retain certain traditional duties of notaries public related to the incorporation of parishes or religious societies and deleted superfluous language.