

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TRANSPORTATION

JULY 1989

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Sen. Robert R. Gould

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* Denotes Chair

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
AUGUST 1989

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 for 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 abbreviated 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 Research Assistant Barbara McGinn, and secretaries: Charlene Brann, and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

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

LD 160 An Act to Make Supplemental Allocations from the Highway Fund for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1990, and June 30, 1991, and to Make Other Changes in the Law Necessary for the Proper Operation of State Government

PUBLIC 515
EMERGENCY

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
MACOMBER	OTP-AM	H-577
TWITCHELL		H-606 MILLS
GOULD R R		
MCPHERSON		

SUMMARY

This bill provides the supplementary allocations from the Highway Fund for Fy 1989-90 and 1990-91, including about \$1.1 million the first year and \$800,000 the second to fund the 50% Highway Fund share of 22 new people in the Bureau of State Police, full funding for 4 new people in the safety program, and capital and contractual funds to upgrade the mini computers at the Division of Motor Vehicles.

CA (H-577) revises the supplemental allocations and makes several other changes as follows:

Sections 1, 2, and 7 provide for a special registration and inspection for altered vehicles, including vehicles with body lifts. These would be subject to standards to be adopted by the Chief of the State Police. The registration fee would be \$27 per year, the same as a street rod, and the fee for the additional inspection would be \$15. These provisions would take effect March 1, 1990.

Section 3 deals with evasion of the fuel decal requirement by establishing a minimum fine of \$250 for failure to obtain and display a fuel use decal.

Section 4 deals with the islands in Penobscot Bay in which 75% of the vehicle registration fees must be spent by adding Frenchboro and Islesboro to the list.

Sections 5 and 6 deal with posted roads, making it clear that the prohibition applies to loaded vehicles with a registered gross weight exceeding the limit allowed by chapter 303 of the DOT rules, and making the minimum fine \$250 for operating overweight on a posted road, not to be suspended.

HB (H-606) increases motor vehicle inspections fees to cover the shortfall in the highway budget, as proposed in LD 70.

LD 170 An Act to Amend the Registration Process for Trailers

LV/WD

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
NORTON	LV/WD	
AULT		
GOULD R A		
WEYMOUTH		

SUMMARY

Under present law, effective April 1, 1989, vehicle registrations expire as follows:

Automobiles; newly acquired motor truck and truck tractors; newly acquired motorcycles, mopeds and motor driven cycles: end of the month, one year from the month issued.

Other vehicles (trailers, semi-trailers, special mobile equipment...): March 1 to the last day of February of the next calendar year.

The bill would change the provision for other vehicles (trailers, etc.) to the last day of the month, one year from the month issued.

LD 172 **An Act to Require Driver's License Examinations for Persons
80 Years or Older (BY REQUEST)** LV/WD

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
HUSSEY LV/WD

SUMMARY

The bill requires persons of age 80 or older to pass a driver's examination before their driver's license may be renewed. The law already requires a vision test for drivers age 65 or older.

LD 192 **An Act Concerning Motor Vehicle Registration Plate Design** ONTP

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
SMITH ONTP
HUSSEY
TARDY
GRAHAM

SUMMARY

Present law requires registration plates to have an illustration of a red lobster and the words, "Maine" at the top and "Vacationland" at the bottom. There was a new general issue, July 1, 1987. The next is scheduled for 1993.

This bill provides that each county may select a design logo for registration plates for residents of that county, beginning July 1, 1989.

LD 202 **An Act to Regulate the Use of Speed Traps and Prevent the
Use of Radar Detectors** ONTP

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
ALIBERTI ONTP
COLLINS
SMITH

SUMMARY

This bill requires law enforcement officers to deter excessive speed through visible law enforcement rather than concealment of officers in speed traps. Evidence by a law enforcement officer in violation of this visibility requirement is not admissible in court against a person charged with speeding.

In addition, this bill prohibits the use or installation of radar detectors in motor vehicles in this State. A person violating this provision commits a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of at least \$50 and upon a person's 3rd offense, the law enforcement officer shall confiscate the radar detector.