

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
114TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**



**BILL SUMMARY  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**JULY 1989**

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Sen. John E. Baldacci  
Sen. Robert G. Dillenback

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Rep. Helen M. Tupper

\* 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.

municipality must have established by ordinance a hearing procedure for parking violations under which the parking violation was finally adjudicated or the violation must have been finally adjudicated by a court and the fine or penalty imposed must have been unpaid for 30 days before the municipality may notify the Secretary of State that the violator's license should be suspended.

**LD 618      An Act to Allow Balloting by Political Party      ONTP**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
SEAVEY	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill allows voters to vote a straight party ticket by checking a "big box" on a ballot bearing the name of a political party. The bill directs the Secretary of State to amend the ballot labels to reflect this voting option.

**LD 630      An Act to Require the Commission on Manufactured Housing to      P & S 40**  
**Study Mediation of Disputes Between Mobile Home Park**  
**Operators and Tenants**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
GWADOSKY MATHEWS	OTP-AM	H-357

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a system for requiring non-binding mediation of disputes between mobile home park owners and their tenants. The bill provides that a tenants' organization or a committee of no less than 5 tenants can require a park owner to participate in mediation of disputes involving matters enumerated in the bill. Those matters include rent increases, evictions due to renovations of the park and changes in park rules. The bill provides for a stay of implementation of disputed changes, and precludes filing of any court action relating to the dispute, until completion of the mediation process.

Committee Amendment "A" provides that the Commission on Manufactured Housing, established by the 113th Legislature, will consider the mediation issues raised by the bill and submit its recommendations to the Legal Affairs Committee in its report due during the Second Regular Session of the 114th Legislature.

**LD 637      An Act to Improve Personnel Supervision in the Bureau of      PUBLIC 522**  
**Intergovernmental Drug Enforcement**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
MARSH DAGGETT MCCORMICK BERUBE	OTP-AM	H-147 S-415    PEARSON

SUMMARY

This bill, submitted by the Department of Public Safety, deals with the organizational structure and personnel policies of the Bureau of Intergovernmental Drug Enforcement (BIDE). The bill creates 2

regional commander positions within BIDE to coordinate its activities. The regional commanders receive the same pay as State Police lieutenants. The regional commanders are given the same law enforcement authority as sheriffs within their respective counties and the same assistance from BIDE legal counsel as afforded drug task force supervisors. Task force supervisors report directly to the regional commander in their region.

The bill also allows BIDE to hire persons qualified but not currently employed as law enforcement officers.

Committee Amendment "A" allows BIDE to employ an experienced and trained law enforcement officer as investigative agent even though that person is not currently employed as a law enforcement officer.

**LD 665      An Act to Provide More Equitable Treatment of Manufactured Housing      ONTP**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
JACQUES WENTWORTH	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill amends the law governing municipal regulation of manufactured housing. The bill deals with two principal issues: design requirements and location.

The bill requires municipalities to permit manufactured homes that meet local design requirements, and either the HUD Code or local safety standards, to be located in all areas where single family dwellings are allowed. The bill allows municipalities to prohibit relocation of manufactured homes that fail to meet applicable design requirements to areas where those non-conforming homes would be aesthetically incompatible.

The bill also prohibits municipalities from imposing greater requirements for parking space, buffer areas, open space, lot setbacks, or screening areas than are required for other residential developments.

**LD 670      An Act to Amend the Lobbyist Reporting Law      PUBLIC 114**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
MARTIN J PRIEST	OTP	

SUMMARY

The bill provides that, when the Legislature is in special session, registered lobbyists are not required to pay fines for not reporting after the session if they engaged in no lobbying activities during the special session.