

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
114TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
TRANSPORTATION

JULY 1989

MEMBERS

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Sen. Reynold Theriault  
Sen. Robert R. Gould

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Rep. Donald A. Strout  
Rep. Clyde A. Hichborn  
Rep. Ronald C. Bailey

\* 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 1256 An Act to Provide a Notification Mechanism for the Expiration of Motor Vehicle Registration**

**ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)  
MANNING  
RANDALL

COMMITTEE REPORT  
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

The bill requires the Secretary of State to give 30 day written notice to persons before their registration expires. A fee sufficient to cover the cost of notification may be charged at the time of registration.

**LD 1275 An Act Concerning Wide Loads**

**LV/WD**

SPONSOR(S)  
CAHILL P  
SMALL  
HOLT

COMMITTEE REPORT  
LV/WD

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

In general, vehicles and loads wider than 102 inches (8 ft, 6 inches) are prohibited (29 §1701). But, DOT or the municipality or county in charge may issue permits to carry wider loads on an emergency basis or for stated purposes such as moving pneumatic-tired heavy equipment. The bill would prohibit wide loads on the Carlton Bridge in Bath during rush hours (6:00-8:00 a.m. and 3:00-5:00 p.m.).

**LD 1291 An Act to Require the Use of Safety Belts on Maine School Buses**

**LV/WD**

SPONSOR(S)  
CARROLL D  
MILLS  
BURKE  
FARNSWORTH

COMMITTEE REPORT  
LV/WD

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

The bill requires new school buses purchased after September 1991 to be equipped with seat safety belts for use by all passengers. Existing buses will be required to install seat safety belts within a 5-year period.

**LD 1303 An Act Concerning the Operation of Emergency Medical Vehicles**

**ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)  
COLLINS  
THERIAULT  
GREENLAW  
BURKE

COMMITTEE REPORT  
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

Present law gives the right of way to certain vehicles, including ambulances, when they are using a

flashing red light and a siren. The bill would extend the privilege to ambulances using a flashing light but not a siren, if the condition of the patient prevents use of the siren.

The bill also extends the use of red flashing lights to emergency rescue squad and ambulance personnel on private motor vehicles the same as volunteer rescue squad and ambulance personnel can under §1367-B(4)(a).

**LD 1308      Resolve, to Require the Construction of a Pedestrian Walkway over Interstate 295 in Portland      LV/WD**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
MANNING	LV/WD	
ANDREWS		
MACOMBER		
HALE		

SUMMARY

This bill directs the Commissioner of Transportation to cause a pedestrian walkway to be constructed over Interstate 295 in Portland to connect the University of Southern Maine parking lot with Deering Oaks Park. The cost would be \$600,000 from the Highway Fund for design and construction.

**LD 1318      Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Study Town Supervision of Private Roads      INDEF PP**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
TRACY	OTP-AM	H-386
GOULD R A		H-488    TRACY
JOSEPH		
BERUBE		

SUMMARY

The study would be conducted by a 7-member commission including 1 senator; 1 representative from the Transportation Committee, 1 from the Judiciary Committee, 1 from the State & Local Government Committee, 1 from the Executive Department, 1 from MMA and 1 from the Governor's Municipal Advisory Council. The study is to report to the State & Local Government Committee by December 1, 1989, and that committee report to the Legislature by January 1, 1990.

The State and Local Government Committee reported out favorably LD 383 which deals with this issue by authorizing municipalities to maintain existing private roads if: not obstructed to the public and if the municipality has adopted standards for road construction. The municipality may assess the landowners but may also use municipal funds for this purpose. The Law Court issued an advisory opinion (printed in the House calendar of June 14, 1989, declaring much of that bill unconstitutional.

CA (H-386) The amendment modifies the study to report to the Legislature rather than a joint standing committee. It also changes the membership to 1 Senator and 2 Representatives from the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation and 1 Senator and 1 Representative from the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. The study will focus on the questions whether there is any municipal authority and responsibility for maintenance of private roads when there is and when there is not a public easement.

HA (H-488) resolves conflicting provisions on the chair.