

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
114TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
PART I - STATE GOVERNMENT

JULY 1989

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Rep. John S. McCormick, Jr.

\* 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.

The Senate Amendment also prohibits any state agency from selling, granting, leasing, or transferring title of state owned land in Augusta or constructing any facility or establishing a public way within Augusta until a new master plan has been adopted. This amendment also provides for the purchase of 2 parcels of land currently owned by a development corporation and an attorney.

**LD 1635      An Act to Reduce the Number of Full-time Legislative Staff Employees      DIED BETWEEN HOUSES**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
HANLEY	ONTP            MAJ	
WEBSTER C	OTP-AM        MIN	
MCCORMICK		
HEPBURN		

SUMMARY

LD 1635 proposed to place a ceiling on the number of full-time non-partisan legislative staff at 100 employees. No full-time non-partisan employees would be dismissed. Reduction in the number of these employees to the proposed level would occur through attrition. No new people could be hired unless the number of full-time staff fell below 100 people. Currently, there are 94 full-time non-partisan staff positions.

The Committee Amendment provided a moratorium on the creation of all new legislative staff positions, partisan and non partisan positions.

**LD 1639      An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to Ethics in Government      LV/WD**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
MARTIN J	LV/WD	
GAUVREAU		
SIMPSON		

SUMMARY

LD 1639 proposed to strengthen conflict of interest provisions governing State Legislators. The bill:

1. proposed to reduce from 7 members to 3 members, the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices;
2. changed the appointment process of the members to the Governmental Ethics Commission;
3. allows a Legislator, without compensation, to represent a citizen before a state agency in contrast to current law which restricts representation to constituents of Legislators;
4. establishes a \$500 ceiling on all honoraria;
5. prohibited former Legislators from lobbying for 1 full year following the Legislator's departure from office.
6. required the disclosure of the name and address of each source of income of more than \$500 to a Legislator, an executive employee and the spouse and dependent children of a Legislator or executive employee;

7. required Legislators who are attorneys to disclose the names of clients. Legislators who are attorneys with a firm would disclose principal areas of law accounting for 20% or more of the firm's gross income;
8. required Legislators to disclose liabilities of more than \$3,000 except home mortgages, credit cards, and retail credit.
9. proposed that the Legislature, by rule, adopt disciplinary guidelines and a Code of Ethics; and
10. Provided that the Attorney General and the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices give a seminar on governmental ethics to Legislators after the general election in every even-numbered year.

A number of these provisions were incorporated in the Committee's ethics bill.

**LD 1645      Resolve, to Provide for the Evaluation of Fire Safety  
Standards in Buildings Occupied by State Workers**

**RESOLVE 40**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
BUSTIN	OTP-AM	S-275
HICKEY		
DAGGETT		
PARADIS P		

SUMMARY

LD 1645 proposed a 9 member Commission on New Standards of Fire Safety for Buildings Occupied by State workers to develop proposals for new fire standards for buildings converted to office space and occupied by state employees.

The bill was completely rewritten to provide the Commissioner of Administration working with the Interdepartmental Committee on Safety in the Workplace and the Labor Management Committee on Building Safety to evaluate fire safety standards in buildings occupied by State workers. The report will be made to the Second Regular Session of the 114th Legislature.

**LD 1650      An Act Mandating Standards for Ethics in Government**

**LV/WD**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
ANDREWS	LV/WD	
BERUBE		
JOSEPH		
PAUL		

SUMMARY

LD 1650 proposed very comprehensive and stringent conflict of interest and ethics laws for State Legislators, executive employees, municipal officials, and county officials. The bill proposed that no more than 4 of the 7 members of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices be members of the same political party. LD 1650:

- A. banned all honoraria;