

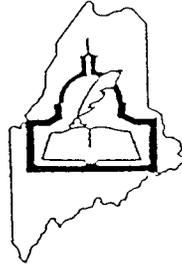
# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
114TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY

JUNE 1990

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**One Hundred and Fourteenth Legislature  
Second Regular Session**

**Joint Standing Committee  
Bill Summaries**

**June 1990**

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. Committee Reports and Floor Action are abbreviated as follows:

OTP  
OTP-ND  
OTP-ND-NT  
OTP-A  
ONTP  
LVWD  
INDEF PP

Ought to Pass  
Ought to Pass in New Draft  
Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title  
Ought to Pass as Amended  
Ought Not to Pass  
Leave to Withdraw  
Indefinitely Postponed

Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond, 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 2011**     **An Act to Provide Additional Information to People with  
Small Claims Actions**

**LV/WD**

**SPONSOR(S)**

ROTONDI  
HOGLUND  
PARADIS P  
MARSANO

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

LV/WD

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

The bill required the Supreme Judicial Court to develop an information sheet on small claims court to be distributed by District Court clerks. Similar information is currently available.

**LD 2023**     **An Act to Establish a Five-year Medical Liability  
Demonstration Project**

**DIED BETWEEN  
BODIES**

**SPONSOR(S)**

GAUVREAU  
RICHARDS  
CLARK M  
FARNSWORTH

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

JT RULE 13

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

The bill authorized the establishment of a 5-year medical liability demonstration project within the medical specialty areas of anesthesiology, emergency medicine and cardiology. It required the Board of Registration in Medicine to establish medical specialty advisory committees to develop standards of practice in those areas. A physician adhering to the standards would be immune. Pursuant to Joint Rule 13, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives required the bill to be reported out of committee without a Committee Report.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-683) represented the minority report of the Committee. It replaced the bill and amended discovery procedures for medical malpractice cases, modified the collateral source rule to require the judge to reduce an award by collateral source payments in medical malpractice cases, capped noneconomic damages in medical malpractice cases at \$250,000 as adjusted yearly by the Consumer Price Index, established the Medical Liability Demonstration Project for the medical specialty areas of anesthesiology, emergency medicine and obstetrics and gynecology and the Rural Medical Access Program. (Not adopted - Ruled not germane by the Speaker of the House of Representatives)

Senate Amendment "B" (S-685) represented the majority report of the Committee. It replaced the bill and established the Medical Liability Demonstration Project for the medical specialty areas of anesthesiology and obstetrics and gynecology. (Not adopted)

House Amendment "A" (H-1112) represented the majority report of the Committee. It replaced the bill, established the Medical Liability Demonstration Project for the medical specialty areas of anesthesiology and obstetrics and gynecology and established the Rural Medical Access Program. (Not adopted)

House Amendment "B" (H-1114) represented the minority report of the Committee. It replaced the bill and the title and amended discovery procedures for medical malpractice cases, modified the collateral source rule to require the judge to reduce an award by collateral source payments in medical malpractice cases, capped noneconomic damages in medical malpractice cases at \$250,000 as adjusted yearly by the Consumer Price Index, established the Medical Liability Demonstration Project and the Rural Medical Access Program. (Not adopted)

House Amendment "C" (H-1133) replaced the bill and established the Medical Liability Demonstration Project. (Not adopted)

See LD 2513.

**LD 2027      An Act Concerning Trafficking in Prison Contraband      PUBLIC 706**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
RICHARDS MACBRIDE HOBBINS	OTP-AM	H-846

**SUMMARY**

The bill made conspiracy to traffic in prison contraband a Class C crime, and attempting to traffic in prison contraband a Class C crime.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-846) replaced the bill. It deletes the inclusion in the definition of prison contraband those items designated by regulation as contraband. It also makes attempting to traffick the same class as trafficking (Class C).

**LD 2043      An Act to Prevent Burdensome Collection Practices when      PUBLIC 655**  
**Collecting Consumer Debts**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
BRANNIGAN	OTP-AM	S-492

**SUMMARY**

The bill amended the law governing disclosure proceedings after a money judgment to prohibit debt collectors from requiring debtors to travel great distances for disclosure hearings.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-492) requires creditors to schedule the asset disclosure hearing for a consumer debt either where the debtor lives or where the transaction took place.

**LD 2067      An Act to Allow Grandparents to Petition the Court for      LV/WD**  
**Visitation Rights in Certain Limited Circumstances**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
ANTHONY HOBBINS NORTON FARNSWORTH	LV/WD	

**SUMMARY**

The bill, modeled on the Nebraska law, provided procedures for grandparents to petition the court for visitation rights regarding their grandchildren in specific situations.

Grandparents' rights is the subject matter of an OPLA research project approved by the Legislative Council.