

# STATE OF MAINE 115TH LEGISLATURE

# FIRST REGULAR SESSION AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

# BILL SUMMARIES JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

# **AUGUST 1991**

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# ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE FIRST REGULAR SESSION AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE BILL SUMMARIES

## AUGUST 1991

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 volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H - 584 or S - 222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

PUBLIC XXX	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
P&S XXX	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
RESOLVE XXX	Chapter # of enacted Resolve
CON RES XXX Chapter # of C	Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
EMERGENCY	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
CARRIED OVER	Bill carried over to 2nd Session
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<b>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</b>
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass report accepted
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw report accepted
INDEF PP	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	House & Senate disagree; bill died
VETO SUSTAINED	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto
UNSIGNED	Not signed by Governor within 10 days
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	Action incomplete when 1st session ended

These summaries were 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.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

# Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

## LD 17 An Act Concerning the Use of Headlights in Inclement Weather PUBLIC 21

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
TRACY	OTP-AM	H_19

### SUMMARY

This bill more clearly defines inclement weather conditions that require operators to use their headlights and taillights. The bill adds a civil fine of not less than \$50 for violating this act. The bill also removes a redundant provision regarding headlights from another section of law.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-19) amends the first section of the bill making more stringent the requirement that vehicle lights be illuminated when lighting or weather conditions obscure vision, by changing the distance requirement from 500 to 1,000 feet ahead. It also removes the civil forfeiture from the bill, deletes antiquated and unnecessary language from the original law and adds a fiscal note.

# LD 22 An Act Discouraging Littering of State Highways LV/MD

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

### SUMMARY

This bill would have required any person who blew out a tire on a public way to pick up the pieces. Additionally, the bill would have made it a civil violation to leave blown-out tires on public ways.

## LD 25 An Act to Require That Children Riding in the Back of Pickup LV/WD Trucks Be Secured

SPONSOR(\$)COMMITTEE REPORTAMENDMENTS ADOPTEDLUTHERLV/WD

## SUMMARY

This bill would have required the operator of a pickup truck to ensure that children under 16 years of age are seated and secured when riding in areas of the truck that are not enclosed or not designed as seating. This bill, if enacted, would have allowed for a six month warning period, followed by a civil fine of \$25 for the first violation and a \$50 fine for subsequent violations.

## LD 31 An Act to Provide Identification for Persons Using LV/WD Handicapped Parking Privileges

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

### SUMMARY

This bill would have prohibited vehicles that bear handicapped plates or placards from utilizing handicapped parking spaces unless the vehicle is being used to transport the handicapped individual. To facilitate this process, the Secretary of State would have been required to issue a photographic identification card to all individuals who are issued handicapped plates or placards.

Additionally, this bill would have increased the forfeiture for unlawful parking in a handicapped parking

space from \$50 to \$100, \$25 of which would have been given to the person who reported the violation to the police. The fine and reward would have been the same when a vehicle with special handicapped plates parked in a handicapped parking space but was not transporting the person with the disability.

# LD 41 An Act to Reduce Roadway Debris Hazards ONTP

 SPONSOR(S)
 COMMITTEE REPORT
 AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

 KILKELLY
 ONTP
 CARROLL D

 MCCORMICK
 GOULD R A
 CARROLL D

## **SUMMARY**

This bill would have required law enforcement officers who investigate motor vehicle accidents to notify the state or municipal agency responsible for the maintenance of the road when there is accident debris that must be cleared.

LD 50 An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Registration of Camp PUBLIC 44 Trailers and to Permit Reregistration for People who Served EMERGENCY in the Persian Gulf

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MCKEEN	OTP-AM	H–37

### **SUMMARY**

Under current law, camp trailers must be registered from March 1 to the last day of February of the following year. This bill proposed changing the registration date for camp trailers so that they would be valid for one year from the month of actual registration.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-37) replaces the original bill, including the title. The amendment allows individuals who served in the Persian Gulf and have been unable to register their vehicles in a timely fashion to establish a new year of registration when they reregister upon their return to Maine. The amendment adds a provision to allow previously registered camp trailers to reregister from September 1, 1991 to August 30, 1992 establishing a new registration year. The amendment also adds an emergency preamble and clause and a fiscal note.

LD 68	An Act Concerning Traffic Control for Road Construction Projects			ONTP
	SPONSOR(S) MERRILL	COMMITTEE REPORT ONTP	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED	

## SUMMARY

This bill would have required the Department of Transportation to promulgate rules regulating the hiring of people to direct traffic during road construction. Additionally, the bill would have required that people who control traffic be law enforcement officers or be trained in traffic control.

See LD 1587, a similar bill.