

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
115TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
JUDICIARY**

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

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.

LD 225

An Act Regarding Court Security in Androscoggin County

LV/WD

SPONSOR(S)
BERUBE

COMMITTEE REPORT
LV/WD

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

The bill would have given the Judicial Department authority to hire qualified personnel as state employees to perform court security functions in Androscoggin County. See similar bill, LD 1458.

LD 233

An Act to Amend the Provisions Regarding the Uniform Traffic Ticket and Complaint

PUBLIC 593

SPONSOR(S)
HOLLOWAY

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-54

SUMMARY

The bill places the responsibility for the creation and issuance of forms of the Uniform Traffic Ticket and Complaint with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety. The Chief Judge of the District Court must first approve the forms.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-54) adds an appropriation and a fiscal note.

LD 243

An Act Regarding the Operation of the Superior Court

**PUBLIC 130
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)
PARADIS P

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-127

SUMMARY

The bill allows qualified persons other than people with judicial experience to serve as chairs of medical malpractice prelitigation screening panels.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-127) adds an emergency and revises who may sit as a screening panel chair. The Chief Justice of the Superior Court may appoint a person with appropriate trial experience to chair a panel, but each side may exercise one challenge to the choice of chairs. The Committee Amendment further clarifies the procedure for imposition of sanctions when a party fails or refuses to comply with rules or orders of the chair.

LD 253

An Act to Limit the Liability of Charitable Institutions

LV/WD

SPONSOR(S)
HASTINGS
HICHENS
PLOURDE

COMMITTEE REPORT
LV/WD

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

The bill would have limited the liability of charitable institutions to the same amount for which governmental entities may be liable under the Maine Tort Claims Act: The limits of coverage in any insurance policy or the absolute cap of \$300,000.