

# 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  
LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**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:

<b>PUBLIC XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<b>P&amp;S XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<b>RESOLVE XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
<b>CON RES XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<b>CARRIED OVER</b>	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
<b>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</b>	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<b>ONTP</b>	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
<b>LVWD</b>	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
<b>INDEF PP</b>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<b>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</b>	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<b>VETO SUSTAINED</b>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
<b>UNSIGNED</b>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<b>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</b>	<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 629****An Act Requiring the Governor to Proclaim a Vacancy When a Candidate for Nomination to Legislative Office Fails to Receive the Minimum Required Votes**

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)  
GAUVREAU  
MARTIN J  
LARRIVEECOMMITTEE REPORT  
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

**SUMMARY**

The bill would have provided a mechanism for a political party to choose a nominee for state legislative office when the candidate for nomination fails in the primary election to receive the minimum number of votes required for nomination. If all candidates for nomination to the office fail to receive the minimum votes required, the bill would have required the Governor to proclaim a vacancy and to order the appropriate political committee to meet to choose a nominee. See LD 506.

**LD 635****An Act to Limit Campaign Contributions to Candidates and Candidates' Political Committees**

LV/WD

SPONSOR(S)  
RICHARDSON  
JOSEPH  
TUPPER  
SIMONDSCOMMITTEE REPORT  
LV/WD

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have placed a limit on the total contributions that a political candidate may receive. The limit would be 2 times the average annual salary of the office the candidate is seeking.

**LD 640****An Act to Amend the Election Laws Relating to Ballot Counting**

INDEF PP

SPONSOR(S)  
GOULD R A  
KANY  
JACQUESCOMMITTEE REPORT  
OTP-AMAMENDMENTS ADOPTED  
H-65**SUMMARY**

This bill provides that the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices must investigate charges that a person ineligible to serve as an election official took part in the counting of election ballots. Relatives of political candidates and employees of political parties are among those ineligible to serve as election officials. If the commission believes, after investigation, that an ineligible person has counted election ballots, the commission must refer the allegation to the Attorney General for prosecution.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-65) adds a fiscal note to the bill.