

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
TRANSPORTATION

AUGUST 1991

Staff:

David C. Elliott, Principal Analyst
Dyan M. Dyttmer, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101, State House Station 13
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 289-1670

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BRET A. PRESTON, RES. ASST.

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
ROOM 101/107/135
STATE HOUSE STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL.: (207) 289-1670

**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 717 An Act to Provide Special License Plates for Recipients of the Purple Heart

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
GOULD R R MILLS HALE BAILEY R	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill would have authorized special registration plates for veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart.

LD 1779, which was enacted, authorizes special registration plates for a variety of veterans, including those who are recipients of the Purple Heart.

LD 719 An Act to Deauthorize the Widening of the Maine Turnpike and to Create a Sensible Transportation Policy

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This initiated bill has 3 major sections:

First, the initiative establishes a statewide transportation policy to be implemented by the Department of Transportation in conjunction with the Maine Turnpike Authority and other state agencies. That policy:

1. Requires evaluation of the full range of alternatives to highway construction or reconstruction and gives preference to nonconstruction alternatives, such as traffic management and public transit systems, to meet transportation needs;
2. Minimizes public health and environmental impacts of transportation decisions;
3. Establishes a public participation process for municipal and citizen involvement in transportation planning and decisions;
4. Promotes use of energy-efficient forms of transportation and discourages transportation modes reliant on foreign oil;
5. Integrates land use planning decisions with transportation planning decisions; and
6. Ensures that the State's transportation network meets the diverse needs of rural and urban populations, as well as the mobility requirements of the elderly and the disabled.

Second, the initiative deauthorizes the widening of the Maine Turnpike from Exit 1 to Exit 6-A and requires that any future proposals to widen the turnpike comply with the transportation policy. The initiative does not alter the existing requirement that the Legislature approve future turnpike widening proposals.

Third, the initiative requires the transfer of surplus money collected by the Maine Turnpike Authority to the Department of Transportation. Once transferred to the Department of Transportation, this money is

available for road and bridge projects throughout the State that are consistent with the statewide transportation policy. Under the initiative, the Legislature must approve the Maine Turnpike Authority's budget and expenditures.

Because this was an initiated bill and was not enacted in its original form, it must be sent out to referendum.

LD 720 An Act to Enact the Passenger Rail Service Act PUBLIC 587

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
	OTP-AM	H-461

SUMMARY

This initiated bill requires the State of Maine to take active steps to initiate, establish, maintain and expand regularly scheduled passenger rail service between points in this State and other points both within and outside of the State.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-461) describes the fiscal impact of implementing the bill as presented.

LD 736 An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning the Aeronautical Functions Investigation PUBLIC 68

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
GOULD R R THERIAULT BAILEY R	OTP	

SUMMARY

This bill amends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 6 to recognize that the National Transportation Safety Board is responsible for all aircraft accident investigations and is charged with making final determination as to cause. This bill further recognizes that the Department of Transportation's appropriate role is to provide assistance as needed to federal authorities in carrying out their responsibilities.

LD 745 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding State Assistance to Mass Transportation PUBLIC 103

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MACOMBER WEBSTER MILLS SMALL	OTP-AM	H-79

SUMMARY

This bill allows the Department of Transportation to provide 100% of the nonfederal support for mass transportation capital items. This money is to be used to purchase spare parts and equipment for loan or lease to transportation providers on a statewide basis.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-79) adds a fiscal note to the bill.