

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:

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 1076 **Resolve, Authorizing Pamela LaTourneau, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Richard LaTourneau III, and Pamela LaTourneau and Richard LaTourneau, Jr. to Bring Civil Action against the State** **ONTP**

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
CONLEY ONTP

SUMMARY

This resolve would have authorized Pamela LaTourneau as personal representative of the estate of Richard LaTourneau III, and Pamela LaTourneau and Richard LaTourneau, Jr. to bring a civil action against the State for damages resulting from the alleged negligence of the Department of Human Services concerning the death of Richard LaTourneau III after he was placed in a foster home.

LD 1078 **An Act to Allow Ballot Clerks Access to Ballots Up to 2 Hours before the Polls Open** **ONTP**

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
TITCOMB ONTP
SIMPSON
KONTOS

SUMMARY

This bill would have permitted clerks to have access to election ballots 2 hours before the polls open. Current law permits access to the ballots 1/2 hour before the polls open. See LD 1656.

LD 1084 **An Act to Improve the Efficiency of Voter Registration** **ONTP**

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
BERUBE ONTP
EMERSON
LOOK
ROTONDI

SUMMARY

This bill would have repealed election laws requiring voter registration offices to be open on certain days before election day.

LD 1105 **An Act to Encourage Students to Register and Vote** **PUBLIC 399**

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
LARRIVEE OTP-AM H-452
KONTOS

SUMMARY

The bill allows residents who are 17 years of age to register to vote at any time during their 17th year. At present, they can only register during the 6 months prior to their 18th birthday. It also removes the requirement that in order to register to vote residents who are 17 years of age must state that they will be outside the State at an educational institution or in the Armed Forces when they turn 18 years of age.

This bill also allows municipal clerks to appoint student clerks who are 15 years to 18 years of age to serve as poll workers for specific elections.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-452) amends the provision relating to student clerks to permit appointment of students who are at least 17 years of age, and to provide that the student clerks are to be appointed in equal numbers from each political party.

LD 1106 Resolve, to Authorize the County of Franklin to Acquire a RESOLVE 32
Certain Parcel of Land in Coburn Gore

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
TRACY	OTP-AM MAJ	H-482 MAJ REP
BAILEY R	ONTP MIN	
MILLS		
POWERS		

SUMMARY

This resolve authorizes the County of Franklin to acquire a parcel of land known as the Coburn Gore Dump on such terms as the Franklin County commissioners determine appropriate and advisable, including a release and indemnification agreement indemnifying the current owners from any claims, liabilities or damages resulting from the county's operation of the landfill.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-482) increases the amount of land that may be purchased from 1.85 acres to 10 acres.

LD 1116 An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Operating Under the LV/WD
Influence

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BAILEY R	LV/WD	
BOUTILIER		
COLLINS		
MILLS		

SUMMARY

This bill would have made it a Class D crime for a person to refuse to submit to chemical tests to determine blood-alcohol level and drug concentration when there is probable cause to believe the person has operated or attempted to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.

LD 1117 An Act to Impose a Limit on Campaign Contributions DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
WHITCOMB	ONTP MAJ	
SMALL	OTP-AM MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill would have limited to \$100 the contributions that may be made to a candidate in any Maine election. The limitation would not apply to contributions from the candidate, the candidate's spouse or the candidate's own political party.