

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.

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.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-277), part of the minority committee report, would have clarified the bill and added a fiscal note.

LD 1130 An Act to Provide Affordable Housing in the State

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
MATTHEWS

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have made the laws limiting municipal regulation of mobile home parks applicable only to mobile home parks that prove that they provide affordable housing. Other mobile home parks would have been treated as any other subdivision. The bill would also have permitted municipalities to require mobile home park road rights-of-way up to 50 feet wide instead of 23 feet as under current law.

LD 1135 An Act Allowing the Operation of Video Lottery Terminals

CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)
CONLEY
DAGGETT
STEVENS A
GWADOSKY

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP MAJ
OTP-AM MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-351

SUMMARY

This bill would authorize the operation of electronic video credit machines that play games such as poker, keno and blackjack and award credits redeemable for cash. The bill also provides for licensing and regulation of the machines by the State Police, limits to 3 the number of machines at any one location, limits the maximum payoff from a machine to \$1,000, requires machines to pay out in credits at least 80% of the total amount played, and requires the machines to be linked by telephone line to a central computer of the State Police for reporting revenue, other data and malfunctions.

The State General Fund would receive a share of the net income from the machines after payout of prizes, beginning at 25% and increasing to 33.3%. One fourth of the state money would be deposited in the Local Government Fund, to increase the funds available for municipal revenue sharing.

The bill establishes a procedure for licensing manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors and operators of the machines by the State Police and required applicants for licenses to be subject to background investigations.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-351) would change the name of the machines from "electronic video credit machines" to "video lottery terminals" and make several changes in the bill, including the following:

1. Increase the State's share of net terminal income from 25% to 33.34%;
2. Provide for sharing of enforcement and implementation of the video lottery law by the Chief of the State Police and the State Lottery Commission and Director;
3. Require all terminals to be linked to an on-line central computer system providing continuous information to the State, to be developed and monitored by the State Lottery Director, except that terminals could be linked to a dial-up system for the first 6 months terminals are in operation;
4. Specifies that only licensed distributors may own video lottery terminals operated for public use in the State;