

# 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.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-319) reduces the fee increases in the bill so that the fees increase by 50% rather than by up to 300%, as proposed in the bill.

**LD 1236**      **An Act Concerning Continuances Requested by Petitioners in Hearings for Operating under the Influence**      **PUBLIC 363**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b> CONLEY	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> OTP-AM	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b> S-194
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**SUMMARY**

Under current law, a person accused of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs may request a hearing before the Secretary of State, and that request stays the administrative suspension of the person's drivers' license. There is no stay of suspension, however, if the petitioner requests a delay in the hearing. This bill permits a stay of suspension if the petitioner requests a delay for good cause.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-194) permits a stay of suspension only if the delay is caused by a circumstance beyond the petitioner's control, requires the petitioner to notify the Secretary of State of the reason for the delay at least 24 hours before the scheduled hearing, and permits the petitioner to FAX the request.

**LD 1237**      **Resolve, to Allow Martin L. Bruno to Bring Suit Against the City of Lewiston and Its Employees**      **ONTP**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b> CONLEY	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> ONTP	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
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**SUMMARY**

This resolve would have authorized Martin Bruno to sue the City of Lewiston for damages allegedly resulting from an automobile accident.

**LD 1259**      **An Act to Clarify the Landlord's Handling of Abandoned Property**      **PUBLIC 265**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b> MURPHY JALBERT	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> OTP-AM	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b> H-274
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**SUMMARY**

This bill changes the way landlords must handle property left on the rented premises by a tenant who has vacated the property. Current law provides three different procedures: one for property worth less than \$100, a second for property worth more than \$100 but less than \$1,000 and a third for property worth \$1,000 or more.

The bill provides for two procedures: one for property worth \$500 or less, and a second for property worth more than \$500. For property worth \$500 or less, the process would be the same as for property worth \$100 or less under current law. The landlord would be required to store the property in a safe, dry, secure location and to mail notice of the property to the tenant. The tenant would have 14 days to claim the property, but the landlord is permitted to condition release of the property on the tenant's payment of rent, damages and the costs of storage of the property. If the tenant does not claim the property in time, the landlord may sell the property, apply the proceeds to rent, damages and storage costs, and send the excess to the Treasurer of State.