

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.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-451) limits the prohibition on applying stickers to trespassing motor vehicles to prohibit only the placement of the stickers in a position on the motor vehicle that obstructs the driver's view. The amendment also adds a specific penalty for improper application of the stickers and places the prohibition in the motor vehicle laws rather than the Maine Criminal Code.

LD 1479 **An Act to Protect the Copyright and Ownership Rights of
Maine Artists**

CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
ADAMS CONSTANTINE GRAHAM LUDWIG		

SUMMARY

This bill provides that the right of reproduction of a work of fine art is reserved to the artist and that the ownership of the original of a reproduced work of art remains with the artist or owner, as the case may be, unless expressly transferred.

This bill prohibits a printer from accepting an order in excess of \$1000 for printing duplicates of a work of fine art without an affidavit that the customer has the right to duplicate the work.

The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 1482 **An Act to Amend the State Ballot Laws**

INDEF PP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
GOULD R A HASTINGS WATERMAN BERUBE	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill proposed several changes to the election laws to increase access to the State's election ballot for new political parties, independent candidates and candidates wishing to run from existing political parties. Those changes included: permitting voters to enroll in any political party, regardless of whether the party is qualified to run candidates in an election, permitting any person in the election district to sign the nomination petition for a candidate, regardless of party enrollment and permitting a political party to decide whether its candidates must be enrolled in the party, permitting parties to decide to choose candidates at a convention instead of through a primary election, decreasing the number of signatures required on a nominating petition, and making the number of signatures required of an independent candidate on a nomination petition the same as the number required for party candidates. The bill also would decrease the number of votes required for a party to qualify or to maintain its qualification to appear on the ballot and permit ballot status to be maintained by a sufficient number of votes every four years in any statewide race instead of every two years in gubernatorial or presidential elections.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-427) strikes all provisions of the bill except those designating who may sign nomination petitions of party candidates. The bill would have permitted any registered voter to sign a petition. The amendment would have permitted each political party to decide whether it wishes to accept the signature of unenrolled voters as well as voters enrolled in its own party in nomination petitions.