

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

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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 1435 An Act to Clarify Use of Motor Vehicle Auxiliary Lights and
Emergency Signals (Reported Pursuant to Public Law 1989,
chapter 707, section 5)**

PUBLIC 444

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
	OTP-AM	H-458

SUMMARY

This bill repeals several sections in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29 that refer to the display and use of auxiliary and emergency lights and enact these provisions in one new section. The bill also consolidates the sections on right-of-way, exercise of privileges and use of sirens by authorized emergency vehicles.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-458) makes several minor changes in the bill. The amendment clarifies the use of Department of Corrections vehicles in emergency situations and clarifies the definition of a hazardous material response vehicle. The amendment incorporates statutory language enacted earlier this session into the bill and makes other technical changes.

**LD 1460 An Act to Establish a Scenic Roadway Designation in the
State**

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
ESTES	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill would have created a scenic road or street designation in the State. Once a road or street had received scenic designation, the consent of the municipal officers would have been required before mature trees and stone walls could have been removed along that road or street.

LD 1495 An Act Dealing with Abandoned Automobiles in the State

PUBLIC 349

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
JACQUES	OTP-AM	H-383

SUMMARY

This bill would have made abandonment of a vehicle a Class E crime and established a rebuttable presumption that the registered owner was the one who abandoned the vehicle.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-383) replaces the original bill. This amendment makes abandonment of a motor vehicle a civil violation and makes the person who abandons a vehicle responsible for the towing charges associated with that abandonment. The amendment also includes a fiscal note.

LD 1499 An Act to Improve Motorcycle Driver Education

PUBLIC 522

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
LARRIVEE	OTP-AM	H-457
HEINO		H-582 LARRIVEE
MILLS		S-364
MCKEEN		

SUMMARY

The State's current Motorcycle Driver Education Program has been conducted only in classroom settings and

only for newly licensed riders under 21 years of age. The bill establishes a study to explore the program's expansion to include hands-on riding instruction and the potential impact of program expansion. The bill also establishes a successful completion of a motorcycle driver education program as a prerequisite for issuance of a motorcycle license permit or license after January 1, 1992.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-457) deletes the provision in the bill requiring all motorcycle drivers to complete a driver education program in order to receive a license. It also makes several changes in the motorcycle driver education study established in the bill. The amendment adds a fiscal note to the bill.

House Amendment "A" (H-582) expands the charge to the motorcycle driver education study established in the bill and changes the reporting date for the study.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-364) to Committee Amendment "A" changes the composition of the study group.

LD 1506 An Act to Amend the Farm Truck Registration Laws

CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PINES MAHANY		

SUMMARY

This bill would extend the registration schedule for farm motor trucks from a maximum gross weight of 54,000 to 69,000 pounds. This would allow tri-axle trucks used primarily for the transportation of agricultural commodities, supplies or equipment to be registered as farm motor trucks rather than commercial vehicles. The bill would permit vehicles transporting farm produce to travel over ways that are closed to heavy vehicles.

This bill was carried over to the 2nd Regular Session by the Transportation Committee.

LD 1535 An Act Concerning Radar Devices

LV/WD

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CONLEY	LV/WD	

SUMMARY

This bill would have amended the law to provide operators of motor vehicles stopped for speeding the right to see the speed measurement indicated by the law enforcement officer's radar device.

LD 1538 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing License Plates and Placards for Disabled Veterans

PUBLIC 599

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MCCORMICK JALBERT	OTP-AM	S-247

SUMMARY

This bill would have amended the law by eliminating the issuance of handicap placards to disabled veterans, while retaining disabled veteran's license plates.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-247) replaces the original bill. The amendment allows the issuance of a handicap placard to 100% disabled veterans at no fee. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.