

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.

The bill clarifies the methods of insurance, indemnity bond or self-insurance provision for motor vehicles requiring operating permits in accordance with the Maine Highway Transportation Reform Act.

Additionally, the bill exempts equipment dealers from the requirement of filing a surety bond. It clarifies the court's authority to suspend registration certificates and plates. The bill makes clear that when a divorce decree awards a vehicle to an individual, that individual is the owner of the vehicle. It also requires salvage dealers to keep more accurate records regarding the vehicles they process.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-653) deletes two sections from the bill and permits most special mobile equipment registrants to register their vehicles as Class A or B equipment. The amendment exempts trailer and semitrailer registrants from having to produce a proof or insurance card at the time of registration. It also extends the length of the current general issue registration plate authorization and clarifies the Secretary of State's authority to order the return of licenses, registrations and plates.

The amendment repeals unallocated law provisions and allocates them to Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29. It also repeals a portion of law that exempts federal employees from licensing requirements. The amendment requires a person with a claim against a surety bond filed by a vehicle dealer or transporter to make the claim within three years of sale.

Additionally, the amendment authorizes insurers to conduct certain types of business in the State and authorizes the Secretary of State to collect and distribute overdimensional truck fees. The amendment adds an allocation and a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1779 An Act to Create Special Veteran Plates and Emblems

PUBLIC 600

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MACOMBER THERIAULT GOULD R R STROUT	OTP-AM	H-480

SUMMARY

This bill authorizes special registration plates for veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart or the Combat Infantry Award or the veterans who were stationed at Iwo Jima during World War II or veterans stationed in Vietnam during the Tet Offensive or veterans who served in Operation Desert Storm.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-480) expands eligibility for the plates to veterans who served in the Korean Conflict or who have been awarded the Bronze Star. The amendment also establishes an effective date of January 1, 1992, for the bill and adds an allocation and a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1787 Resolve, to Extend the Schedule for Recodification of the Motor Vehicle Laws

**RESOLVE 31
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PRAY MAYO WHITCOMB	OTP-AM	S-233

SUMMARY

This bill extends the deadline for the revision of the State's motor vehicle laws. In light of the

State's fiscal crisis, this deferment was enacted to save associated printing costs during this fiscal year.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-233) adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1788 An Act to Authorize Operation of a 6-axle Single Unit Truck and a Combination Vehicle with a 53-foot Semitrailer Resulting from the Experimental Vehicle Program PUBLIC 410

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MILLS CASHMAN BAILEY R	OTP-AM	S-248

SUMMARY

Part A of this bill authorizes a 6-axle single unit vehicle to obtain a special commodity permit that allows a maximum gross weight of 85,000 pounds when carrying only forest products.

Part B of this bill establishes a permit authorizing operation of a combination vehicle containing a 53-foot semitrailer on highways designated by the Commissioner of Transportation.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-248) makes several minor changes to the bill. The amendment increases the maximum length of the 6-axle single unit forest products vehicle to 41 feet and increases the maximum steering axle weight for the 6-axle vehicle to 15,600 pounds. It revises requirements for the rear underride bumper guard on the 53-foot semitrailer vehicle to allow for minor variations in centering the bumper. The amendment also reduces the permit fee for the 53-foot semitrailer to \$60 per year or \$5 per month. The amendment makes other technical changes and adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1870 An Act to Authorize Department of Transportation Bond Issues in the Amount of \$27,500,000 to Match Available Federal Funds for Improvements to Highways, State and Local Bridges and Airports P & S 53

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
GOULD R R BAILEY R	OTP-AM	S-342 S-384 GOULD R R

SUMMARY

This bond issue authorizes up to \$27,500,000 to be used to match available federal funds for improvements to highways, state and local bridges and airports.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-342) clarifies the bond issue question and adds a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "B" (S-384) to Committee Amendment "A" increases the amount of bonds authorized by \$2.2 million to provide funds to complete construction of one state ferry and to provide harbor improvements and rephrases the question that will be submitted to the voters for ratification of the Department of Transportation bond issue. The amendment also changes the title of the bill and adds a fiscal note to the bill.