

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

**STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TRANSPORTATION**

JULY 1993

Staff:
Jill Ippoliti, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101, State House Station 13
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*

MEMBERS:

**Sen. Joseph C. Brannigan
Sen. Judy A. Paradis
Sen. Robert R. Gould*

**Rep. William B. O'Gara
Rep. Hilda C. Martin
Rep. Robert E. Hussey, Jr.
Rep. George F. Ricker
Rep. Rita B. Melendy
Rep. Charles C. Plourde
Rep. Joseph D. Driscoll
Rep. Donald A. Strout
Rep. Ronald C. Bailey
Rep. Harry W. Bailey*

**Denotes Chair*

MARTHA E. FREEMAN, DIRECTOR
WILLIAM T. GLIDDEN, JR., PRINCIPAL ANALYST
JULIE S. JONES, PRINCIPAL ANALYST
DAVID C. ELLIOTT, PRINCIPAL ANALYST
MARION HYLAN BARR
JON CLARK
LISA COPENHAVER
DEBORAH C. FRIEDMAN
MICHAEL D. HIGGINS
JILL IPPOLITI



JOHN B. KNOX
ROY W. LENARDSON
PATRICK NORTON
JANE ORBETON
MARGARET J. REINSCH
PAUL J. SAUCIER

JOHN G. KELLEY, RESEARCHER
DARLENE A. SHORES LYNCH, RESEARCHER
CARRIE C. McFADDEN, RESEARCHER

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
ROOM 101/107/135
STATE HOUSE STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL: (207) 287-1670
FAX (207) 287-1275

**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

JULY 1993

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.

The committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. 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:

<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill carried over to Second Session</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
<i>ENACTMENT FAILED</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference formed but unable to agree</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</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.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

4693NRG

LD 651 An Act to Promote Safety of School Buses

PUBLIC 75

SPONSOR(S)
TRACY

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-94

SUMMARY

This bill allows school buses to be equipped with reflective tape. The committee amendment (H-94) specifies that strips of reflective material used on school buses must be national school bus yellow.

LD 656 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Dimming of Lights When Following Vehicles

PUBLIC 76

SPONSOR(S)
LINDAHL

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-87

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to increase from 100 feet to 500 feet the distance at which a driver of a vehicle is required to dim headlights when following another vehicle. The committee amendment (H-87) changes the distance to 300 feet and adds a fiscal note.

LD 693 An Act to Establish the Maine Environmental Trust Fund Commemorative Motor Vehicle Plate

INDEF PP

SPONSOR(S)
PEARSON

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP MAJ
OTP-AM MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-640 O'GARA
S-274

SUMMARY

This bill established the Maine Environmental Trust Fund commemorative license plate program. The original bill provided for an annual contribution of \$25. After reimbursement to the Secretary of State for costs in producing and issuing the plates, the remainder of the fund was to be distributed as follows:

1. 40% to support the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund; and
2. 60% awarded as grants to nonprofit organizations and municipalities for purchase of land and easements for wildlife habitat and open space. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection would award the grants.

Committee amendment (S-274) is the minority report. It replaced the original bill. The amendment provided for a \$20 contribution to the Environmental Trust Fund. It specified that \$10 of the \$20 must be transferred to the Secretary of State for production and issuing costs in the first 2 years of the program. After the first 2 years, the Secretary of State would receive \$5 for each set of plates. After reimbursement to the Secretary of State, the remainder of the fund would be distributed as follows:

1. 10% to the Maine State Parks Capital Improvements Fund established in the amendment;
2. 26% to the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund;
3. 14% to the Natural Areas Conservation Fund; and

4. 50% to be awarded as grants to nonprofit organizations and municipalities for preservation of habitat and open space. The Commission of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife would award the grants.

House amendment (H-640) continues reimbursement to the Secretary of State at \$10 per set of plates beyond the first 2 years of the program. It changes the Maine State Parks Capital Improvements Fund to the Maine State Parks Fund and specifies that the fund can be used for maintenance, repairs and operations. It also allows the Maine State Parks Fund to be used to buy out contracts on state land. The House amendment changes the distribution of funds to 60% to the Maine State Parks Funds and 40% to the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund. The Joint Standing Committee on Transportation is charged with reviewing the distribution of funds and submitting legislation by November 1, 1995 to continue or amend the distribution formula.

The provisions of this bill, as amended by H-640 and S-274, were enacted as Part BBB of LD 283.

LD 745 An Act to Authorize the Issuance of Repair Plates to Automobile Repair Garages ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
TRACY STROUT	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill would have created repairer plates for businesses such as body shops and repair garages to use solely on vehicles in their possession for testing and adjusting.

LD 747 An Act to Amend the Law Regarding Suspension of an Operator's License for Nonpayment of Fines ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
KETTERER	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill would have required a clerk of court to notify the Secretary of State when a person fails to pay a fine imposed for a criminal traffic offense or a traffic infraction within 30 days of judgment. The clerk would have been required to send notice regardless of any court order granting the operator more than 30 days to pay the fine. The Secretary of State would then suspend that person's license until the fine and a \$25 reinstatement fee were paid. This bill would have made license suspension mandatory even if the court had granted the operator more than 30 days to pay the fine in full. Under current law, a clerk of court is required to suspend an operator's license for nonpayment of fines and notify the Secretary of State of the suspension.

LD 753 An Act to Ensure Complete Motor Vehicle Accident Reports ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BENNETT	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill would have required the investigating officer to include on each motor vehicle accident report a determination of which driver was at fault or to write "undetermined" in cases where fault could not be