

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TRANSPORTATION**

JULY 1993

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Sen. Robert R. Gould*

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**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

SUMMARY

This bill would have changed the provisions for issuing registration plates to county-owned vehicles. It would have allowed law enforcement agencies to register vehicles at branch offices and receive standard registration plates without the registration information being held confidential.

LD 1152 An Act to Clarify the Authority of the Department of Transportation to Determine Condition of Property Prior to Acquiring **CARRIED OVER**

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
STROUT

SUMMARY

This bill clarifies the authority of the Department of Transportation to determine the condition of property prior to acquiring a parcel. This bill allows the department to enter upon land to perform soundings, drillings and other examinations of the property to assess the physical as well as environmental condition of the property. This bill also provides any aggrieved landowner an opportunity to have the State Claims Commission assess just compensation for damages.

LD 1172 An Act Regarding the Issuance of Registration Plates **ONTP**

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
CASHMAN ONTP

SUMMARY

Current law requires that one registration plate be attached to the front of each vehicle and one registration plate be attached to the rear of each vehicle. This bill would have permitted only one registration plate attached to the rear of a vehicle.

LD 1192 An Act to Provide Funding for Response to Spills of Hazardous Materials **ONTP**

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
COLES ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have established a funding mechanism to support hazardous materials incident response through a per-mile tax on trucks carrying hazardous materials.

LD 1216 Resolve, to Name the So-called "Covered Bridge", No. 2189, Spanning the Aroostook River, in Presque Isle on Route 1, the Harold N. Flagg Memorial Bridge **RESOLVE 13**

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
MACBRIDE OTP-AM H-236

SUMMARY

This resolve names the bridge spanning the Aroostook River on Route 1 in Presque Isle the "Harold N. Flagg Memorial Bridge."

Harold N. Flagg was a highly respected and dedicated employee of the Department of Transportation for 34 years and was the supervising engineer for this bridge. His effort and professionalism were instrumental in the success of the bridge construction program throughout our State.

The committee amendment (H-236) adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1225 An Act to Allow Public Access to Information Concerning Expenditures of Highway Funds for Acquisition of Private Property ONTP

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BRANNIGAN ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have allowed public access to information concerning amounts paid by the Department of Transportation for specific parcels of property within one year of the acquisition. Current law allows this information to be kept confidential for 9 months after completion of the project.

The bill also allows public access to canceled checks of the State related to payments for such property.

LD 1228 An Act to Ensure Access to Land Located on Discontinued Roads ONTP

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
FOSTER ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have ensured that the owner of land located on a public way that is discontinued or abandoned either receives a proper determination of damages and is paid those damages or retains a private right-of-way sufficient to allow access and development of the land.

LD 1249 An Act to Change Public Hearing Requirements for Certain Railroad Grade Crossing Projects PUBLIC 164

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
STROUT OTP-AM H-235
PARADIS J

SUMMARY

This bill eliminates the requirement for a notice and public hearing for the Railroad Highway Grade Crossing Improvement Program under the federal program. The Railroad Highway Grade Crossing Improvement Program pertains to crossings that are under public control. As part of the Railroad Highway Grade Crossing Improvement Program, agreements must be signed by the State, the railroad and the municipality before the safety improvements may begin. If the hearings are not required, approximately \$1,800 per hearing is saved. Public hearings would still be conducted for railroad crossing safety actions asked for by citizen or town petition.