

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 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.

This bill also deletes some antiquated language.

The committee amendment (H-235) adds a fiscal note.

LD 1311 An Act to Change the Railroad Fire Protection Laws

PUBLIC 271

SPONSOR(S)

BAILEY R

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-354

SUMMARY

This bill replaces the existing law requiring railroad companies to remove flammable materials. This bill establishes minimum standards for the maintenance of rights-of-way and requires railroad companies to meet those standards. The bill clarifies when penalties become effective. The bill also provides for a delayed effective date to give railroads time to plan for and meet the standards.

The committee amendment (H-354) clarifies that the Director of the Bureau of Forestry or a state forest ranger is the final authority in defining a flammable material and a fire hazard. Burning to destroy flammable material is excluded from the definition of "railroad-caused fire". Other technical changes are made to clarify the intent of the bill. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1409 An Act to Amend Certain Motor Vehicle Laws

PUBLIC 297

EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)

STROUT

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-506

SUMMARY

This bill provides alternate means of showing proof of insurance at the time of motor vehicle registration. The bill sets a fee for request of an out-of-rotation number plate. The bill changes the length of time an expired registration number will be reserved from 6 to 8 months. The bill provides for a registration credit when transferring truck campers and establishes a provision to replace lost or mutilated validation stickers. The bill provides a 14-day grace period following the purchase of a truck camper before registration is required.

The bill allows a vehicle manufacturer to be licensed as a new car dealer and have dealer plates. It requires dealers to keep a record of all employees entitled to use a dealer plate. The bill allows up to 3 service plates at each of a dealer's locations and limits the use of service vehicle plates.

The bill changes the length of an operator's license from 4 to 6 years.

The bill also repeals the requirement that vehicles operating at the weight tolerance limits have a special commodity permit and increases the registration fees by \$2 for trucks over 26,000 pounds.

The bill provides for a handicapped motorcycle plate.

The bill eliminates the need for an assigned vehicle identification number for a change of a motor but requires that a new vehicle identification number is necessary for a change in frame, chassis and pick-up cab. The bill makes changes to the laws dealing with the title of an automobile. The bill prohibits