

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

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

dealers from having "open" transfers without the prior owner listed as a seller or their dealership listed as buyer or without a current odometer reading.

The bill applies the abandoned vehicle laws to a vehicle left on residential property for more than 6 months, even if the individual owning the residence gave permission for the vehicle owner to park at the residence.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of State to enter into a multistate agreement for the purpose of providing continuous proof of for-hire motor carrier liability insurance. The bill makes changes necessary to facilitate Maine's participation in the International Registration Plan.

The amendment (H-506) adds an emergency preamble and an emergency clause to the bill and designates effective dates for various sections of the bill. The amendment strikes from the original bill the provision that handicapped persons registering a motorcycle be issued a handicap plate for the motorcycle. It adds a definition for "trolley trailer" and allows passengers to ride in a trailer that meets this definition.

The amendment raises from \$1 to \$2 the service charge that a municipal agent may charge to issue a renewal of an operator's license. It allows the Secretary of State to appoint agents, other than municipal agents, for the sole purpose of issuing renewals for operator's licenses. The agent may charge a fee of \$2. It amends that section of the bill providing for a 6-year license. The amendment provides for a 6-year license to be issued to all operators under 65 years of age; operators 65 years of age or older would continue to be issued 4-year licenses. The Commissioner of Transportation is directed to adopt lighting standards for highway maintenance equipment in addition to the lighting requirements in law. The amendment provides for the Commissioner of Transportation and the Commissioner of Public Safety to concur on rules adopted by the Secretary of State to implement the multistate agreement.

The amendment establishes the Task Force to Study the Safe Mobility of Maine's Aging Population. The task force is charged with reviewing transportation alternatives for an aging population, licensing provisions for the driving population, educational programs to improve driving performance and confidence and highway travel considerations for an aging population. In addition, the task force may recommend legislation addressing the findings of its study.

The amendment also makes several technical changes to the original bill and adds an allocation section and a fiscal note.

**LD 1456 An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority
Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Fiscal
Year Ending December 31, 1994**

P & S 39

SPONSOR(S)

BRANNIGAN

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

MAJ

ONTP

MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

S-186

SUMMARY

This bill makes allocations from the gross revenues of the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Authority's fiscal year ending December 31, 1994, in accordance with the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6 and the authority's general bond resolution.

The amendment (S-186) adds a fiscal note.