

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LEGAL AFFAIRS

JULY 1993

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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

LD 1426 An Act Limiting Fees Charged to Serve Court Documents ONTP

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
STEVENS K ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have limited the fee charged for service of more than one document by a sheriff or deputy.

LD 1432 An Act to Allow Political Parties to Determine the Method of Nominating Candidates DIED BETWEEN BODIES

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MICHAEL OTP-AM H-585

SUMMARY

This bill would have allowed a political party to choose the method of nominating candidates for an election for federal, state or county offices. The party would have had to notify the Secretary of State within 6 weeks of the nominating event of the choice for the event. This bill also would have changed the time frame for a political party to choose who may participate in their nominating event.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-585) would have clarified how and when minor parties may choose their method of nominating candidates. The amendment would have given minor parties the opportunity to nominate by caucus or convention, as well as by primary.

LD 1433 An Act to Provide for Public Finance in State Elections ONTP

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MARTIN J ONTP
MARSH

SUMMARY

This bill would have established the Election Campaign Fund as a system of public financing of election campaigns for candidates running for the office of Governor or for the State Senate or the State House of Representatives.

The bill also would have prohibited political action committees.

LD 1450 An Act Concerning the Operation of Aircraft under the Influence of Intoxicating Liquor or Drugs LD 467

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MARTIN J OTP-AM H-400
S-222 VOSE

SUMMARY

This bill expands on the law concerning the operation of aircraft under the influence by making the offense more consistent with laws governing hunting or operating snowmobiles, motor vehicles, ATV's or watercraft under the influence or with an excessive blood-alcohol level. The bill imposes a duty to submit to a chemical test on operators of aircraft and provides other testing and procedural elements that exist in the other operating-under-the-influence and chemical testing laws.

This bill differs from other operating-under-the-influence laws primarily in 2 ways. First, the excessive blood-alcohol level for operators of aircrafts is set at 0.04% or more by weight of alcohol in the blood to be consistent with regulations of the Federal Aviation Administration. Secondly, under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 6, section 205, subsection 10, paragraph C as enacted in this bill, results of any chemical test given to an operator of an aircraft or the refusal by an operator of an aircraft to submit to a chemical test must be reported to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-400) adds a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-222) corrects a technical error.

**LD 1451 An Act to Restrict Private Political Campaign Contributions
 in State Elections**

**DIED BETWEEN
BODIES**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
RICHARDSON	ONTP	MAJ	
HANDY	OTP-AM	MIN	
CARLETON			

SUMMARY

This bill would have amended existing campaign and election practices as follows.

1. The Commission of Governmental Ethics and Election Practices would have been replaced by the Maine Elections and Ethics Commission, an independent 7-member commission appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court with the concurrence of a 2/3 majority vote of each House of the Legislature.
2. A new fund would have been established, the Maine Democracy Fund, to finance election campaigns for the offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative.
3. The Maine Democracy Fund would have received money from the following sources: a \$4 Maine taxpayer filing fee; a voluntary nonfiler fee of \$4; increased lobbyist registration fees; and candidate filing fees including the personal check of the candidate and a specified number of support checks of \$5 for candidates for State Senator or State Representative and \$10 for candidates for Governor.
4. Candidates who chose to participate in the fund would have been required to obtain an increased number of signatures for their nominations. Those candidates would have received State of Maine debit cards to be used for all campaign expenditures; the cards would have drawn down amounts credited to each candidate's account in the Maine Democracy Fund as specified by the law for each office.
5. Candidates who chose not to participate in the fund would have generally followed existing filing and reporting requirements except that the bill specified a new schedule requiring their more frequent filing of campaign finance reports.
6. If candidates who chose not to participate in the Maine Democracy Fund exceeded the spending limit set for participating candidates, a participating opponent would have received funds on a dollar-for-dollar match with the nonparticipating candidate's expenditures, but the participating opponent's expenditures would have been capped at 3 times the original amount credited to a participating candidate under the bill.