

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TRANSPORTATION

MAY 1994

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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

MAY 1994

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, 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:

PUBLIC XXX

P&S XXX

RESOLVE XXX

CON RES XXX

EMERGENCY

ONTP

INDEF PP

FAILED ENACTMENT

FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT

FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT

DIED BETWEEN BODIES

CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE

VETO SUSTAINED

UNSIGNED

DIED ON ADJOURNMENT

Chapter # of enacted Public Law

Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law

Chapter # of enacted Resolve

Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses

Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days

Ought Not to Pass report accepted

Bill Indefinitely Postponed

Bill failed to get majority vote

Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote

Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote

House & Senate disagree; bill died

Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died

Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Not signed by Governor within 10 days

Action incomplete when session ended; bill died

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If you have any suggestions or comments on the summaries, please let us know.

5581LHS

**LD 1613 An Act Concerning Business Directional Signs on Certain
Controlled Access Highways**

PUBLIC 516

SPONSOR(S)
LINDAHL
GOULD R R

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-748

SUMMARY

This bill allows the placement of business directional signs in certain controlled access highways that are designed to bypass existing business districts. Currently, official business directional signs are prohibited from the interstate highway system and controlled access highways by rule.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-748) adds a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 1636 An Act to Modify the Manufacture of Motor Vehicle
Registration Plates**

PUBLIC 567
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
STROUT

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-819

SUMMARY

This bill allows funds from the Environmental Trust Fund to be used for marketing of the environmental registration plate and production and marketing of goods using the license plate design. Proceeds from the sale of the products must be credited to that fund. The bill specifies that the Secretary of State will be the authorizing authority when a request is made to reproduce an environmental plate. It allows for assessment of a penalty if a registration plate is reproduced without proper authorization. The bill allows the Secretary of State the option of using a framed border on registration plates.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-819) allows vehicles assigned to the Department of Conservation and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to display environmental plates in lieu of specially designated state plates. It clarifies that money from the fund can be used to market the environmental registration plates and to produce and market products using the design. It amends the allocation in Public Law 1993, chapter 410 to reflect this change. It changes the date of availability of the University of Maine System license plates to no later than February 1, 1995. It also adds an emergency preamble and clause and a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 1642 An Act to Establish a Financial Assistance Program for
Utilities Burdened as a Result of State Highway Construction**

PUBLIC 656

SPONSOR(S)
O'GARA

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-759

SUMMARY

Pursuant to Public Law 1991, chapter 860, the Department of Transportation was required to file a report with the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation for the development of a program to provide financial assistance to utilities experiencing serious financial hardship as a result of the relocation of facilities that are part of bridge and highway projects.

This bill implements the report presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation in March 1993 establishing the financial assistance program for water utilities and combination water and sewer

utilities that have an annual revenue of \$15,000,000 or less. Under this program, the Department of Transportation will provide interest-free loans for up to 90% of the utility relocation cost when the cost of the utility relocation is 5% or more of the utility's prior fiscal year revenues.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-759) caps total outstanding loans at \$3,000,000. The amount loaned in a fiscal year may not exceed the amount allocated for that fiscal year plus the unencumbered balance in the Small Utility Loan Program reserve account. The amendment establishes the Small Utility Loan Program as a nonlapsing account and allocates \$250,000 to the program for fiscal year 1994-95. These funds are transferred from the Highway and Bridge Improvement program. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1653 An Act to Enable the Use of Former Exit 5 on the Maine Turnpike for Access to an Adjacent Liquor Store and Hotel and Conference Center Facility

PUBLIC 612

SPONSOR(S)
DUTREMBLE D
SUMMERS
NADEAU

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-448

SUMMARY

This bill allows the Maine Turnpike Authority to permit the use of former exit 5 on the Maine Turnpike in Saco for access from the turnpike to a liquor store, conference center, restaurant and hotel complex to be developed on land now owned by the City of Saco and requires signs identifying the service to be placed at appropriate distances on the turnpike.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-448) clarifies the Maine Turnpike Authority's power to establish a logo signing program and to charge a fee for logo signs on the Maine Turnpike. The amendment allows for either a liquor store or a retail store at the Saco Plaza. It changes the language relating to placement requirements for signs to the Saco Plaza. It requires the Maine Turnpike Authority to submit a status report on adoption of a logo signing program to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. The amendment also makes technical changes and adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1675 An Act to Promote Child Safety

PUBLIC 520

SPONSOR(S)
TARDY

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-736

SUMMARY

The bill as amended by committee amendment H-736 removes from the motor vehicle laws the exemption from the use of a child safety seat when the driver is not the parent of the child. The amendment corrects an error in the original bill. It also makes technical changes and adds a fiscal note to the bill.