

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

AUGUST 1995

**MEMBERS:**

*\*Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr.*  
*Sen. Albert G. Stevens, Jr.*  
*Sen. Michael H. Michaud*

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*Rep. Janice E. Labrecque*

*\*Denotes Chair*



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**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION BEFORE  
THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES**

**AUGUST 1995**

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing 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 publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, is helpful in determining to which committee any particular bill was referred.

In this document, 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 categories of final action are abbreviated as follows:

**CARRIED OVER**

**CON RES XXX**

**CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE**

**DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

**DIED ON ADJOURNMENT**

**EMERGENCY**

**FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT**

**FAILED ENACTMENT**

**FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT**

**INDEF PP**

**ONTP**

**P&S XXX**

**PUBLIC XXX**

**RESOLVE XXX**

**UNSIGNED**

**VETO SUSTAINED**

*Bill carried over to Second Session*

*Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses*

*Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died*

*House & Senate disagree; bill died*

*Action incomplete when session ended; bill died*

*Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days*

*Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote*

*Bill failed to get majority vote*

*Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote*

*Bill Indefinitely Postponed*

*Ought Not to Pass report accepted*

*Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law*

*Chapter # of enacted Public Law*

*Chapter # of enacted Resolve*

*Not signed by Governor within 10 days*

*Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto*

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If more detailed information is needed on a bill, contact the committee analyst.

5581LHS

States Congress or the State Legislature. In order to continue to participate in the primary election process, the party would have had to continue to have at least one candidate who earns 5% of the total vote in the general election held every 2 years.

**LD 157      An Act to Prohibit Candidates from Attending the Voting Place Except to Vote**

ONTP

| <b>SPONSOR(S)</b> | <b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> | <b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| HALL              | ONTP      MAJ           |                           |
|                   | OTP-AM      MIN         |                           |

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have prohibited a candidate from attending the voting place except to vote.

The majority of the committee voted ONTP. The minority COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-30) would have added a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 164      An Act to Reduce the Number of Days a Tenant May Be in Arrears for Rent Payments**

PUBLIC 208

| <b>SPONSOR(S)</b> | <b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> | <b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| CLEVELAND         | OTP-AM                  | S-28                      |

**SUMMARY**

This bill reduced from 14 days to 7 days the length of time a tenant may be in arrears of a rent payment before a notice to quit may be served.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-28) added language that gave a tenant who was behind in the rent a longer period in which to stop the eviction process by paying the rent due plus any court fees actually paid by the landlord. The amendment also required that the landlord reinstate the tenancy if the tenant paid the overdue rent and the court fees to the landlord before the court issued the writ of possession. The amendment revised the statements that must be in the notice to reflect this change and added a fiscal note.

HOUSE AMENDMENTS "A" AND "B" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-139 AND H-183) both attempted to reword the statements to be included in the notice to the tenant so they would be understandable at a lower reading level. (Not adopted)

**LD 191      An Act to Limit Campaign Contributions in Legislative Races**

ONTP

| <b>SPONSOR(S)</b> | <b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b> | <b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| LIBBY JD          | ONTP                    |                           |

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have prohibited any financial contributions to a candidate, except by the candidate or the candidate's spouse, later than 12 days before the election.

See LD 443, An Act to Reform Campaign Finance, where the committee concentrated its campaign finance reform efforts.