

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

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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	<i>Bill carried over to Second Session</i>
CON RES XXX	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
EMERGENCY	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
FAILED ENACTMENT	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
P&S XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
PUBLIC XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
RESOLVE XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
UNSIGNED	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
VETO SUSTAINED	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

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

revenue from the sale of alcohol. The bill also clarified the circumstances under which minors may patronize Class A restaurant/lounges. Before this bill passed, minors and adults under the legal drinking age could not take a meal in eating establishments serving liquor and a light meal or "pub style" menu after 9 p.m.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-121) replaced the bill and permitted all liquor licensees to begin selling alcoholic beverages at 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Under existing law as amended by Public Law 1995, chapter 46 (See LD 32), alcohol could not be sold until noon on Sundays, except by a Class A restaurant or a Class A restaurant/lounge, which may sell liquor on Sunday beginning at 9:00 a.m. The amendment also added a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 239 An Act to Prohibit Registering to Vote on Election Day

DIED BETWEEN
BODIES

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
HALL	ONTP MAJ	
	OTP MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill would have prohibited voter registration on election day.

LD 240 An Act to Require Reporting by Political Action Committees That Endorse or Provide Funds to Local Municipal Candidates

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
AMERO	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill would have required political action committees that accept contributions, incur obligations or make expenditures in elections for municipal office to register and report to the municipal clerk. Under existing law only municipal candidates must file campaign reports.

The committee voted unanimously to replace the bill with a committee amendment. Later in the session, but before the LD went to the floor, the committee voted to ONTP this bill and folded this amendment into LD 1444, to avoid enacting conflicting law.

See LD 1444, An Act to Strengthen the Governmental Ethics and Campaign Reports and Finances Laws.

LD 255 An Act to Clarify the Statutory Prohibition of the Collection of More Than 2 Months of Rent in Advance

DIED BETWEEN
BODIES

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
STEVENS K	OTP-AM MAJ	
	ONTP MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill would have amended the statute to include an advance rent payment as part of the tenant's security deposit. The collection of advance rent is limited to 2 months' rent by current law, which limits the amount of security deposit collected to 2 months' rent. Advance rent would not have included rent collected for the next upcoming rental period, and a landlord could not consider the rental period to be longer than one month.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-129) would have specified that advance rent paid would not be considered a security deposit in 2 situations: when the tenant has voluntarily paid the rent in advance and when the property is a seasonal rental being rented for no more than 4 months. The amendment would have permitted landlords to collect rent in advance in these 2 situations and to not have to escrow those funds with security deposits.

LD 257 An Act to Give Qualifying Status to Certain New Political Parties for 4 Years ONTP

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
PERKINS ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have allowed a party that meets these qualifications to participate in all primary and general elections held over the next 4 years without having to requalify after every election.

An amendment suggested to this bill, which was not accepted by the committee, eventually became a minority OTP-AM report to LD 499, An Act Establishing Procedures for New Political Parties to Participate in Primary Elections.

LD 289 An Act to Clarify the Status of Certain Gifts to Legislators under the Governmental Ethics Laws PUBLIC 33

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
BERUBE OTP

SUMMARY

This bill made it lawful for a person to give and for certain government officials to receive a gift of a subscription to a newspaper, news magazine or other news publication without violating legislative ethics or criminal laws.

LD 293 An Act to Limit Contributions from a Political Action Committee to \$1,000 in Any Election ONTP

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
HALL ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have decreased the amount of political action committee contributions from a maximum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$1,000. See LD 443, An Act to Reform Campaign Finance, which the committee passed as its campaign finance bill.