

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
JUDICIARY

AUGUST 1995

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Sean F. Faircloth*

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Rep. Frederick Moore III*

Staff:

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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:

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

SUMMARY

This bill clarifies that medical professionals who volunteer services for county or municipal agencies are entitled to the same protection from civil liability as those who volunteer for a nonprofit corporation or a state agency. The bill makes it clear that medical professionals who volunteer services to a city clinic are accorded the same status as medical professionals who volunteer services to a state clinic.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-178) provides that the limited immunity that is currently provided to physicians, podiatrists and dentists who volunteer their services at an agency of the State or a nonprofit organization is extended to all licensed health care practitioners. The amendment also provides the same immunity to health care professionals who provide volunteer services to an agency of any county or municipality. The amendment adds an emergency preamble, an emergency clause and a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 328 An Act to Provide Immunity from Civil Liability Regarding ONTP
Emergency Care

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

SUMMARY

This bill would have provided immunity from civil liability for physicians, health care providers and private citizens who in good faith provide emergency care at the scene of an accident or en route to a hospital. It would have repealed scattered statutory provisions providing different levels of immunity for specific groups of people and enacted one comprehensive provision. The bill would have provided that any physician who assists in emergency procedures, any citizen who acts in good faith or any emergency medical services person who provides emergency care without any direct compensation is exempt from liability except in cases involving gross negligence.

LD 330 An Act to Allow Liens on Claims Not Sounding in Tort INDEF PP

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

SUMMARY

This bill attempted to resolve an ambiguity created by the Law Court's decision in New England Mortgage Services Company, Inc. v. Petit, 590 A.2d 1054 (1991), by specifying that a chose in action, except those arising out of tort, may be the subject of a turnover order in postjudgment disclosure proceedings. The bill was recalled from the Governor's desk and indefinitely postponed.

LD 346 An Act to Change the Maine Rule of Evidence That CARRIED OVER
Currently Allows the Admission of Subsequent Remedial
Measures as Evidence of Negligence

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
RICHARDSON

SUMMARY

This bill proposes to reverse current practice in the State and makes the Maine rule compatible with the federal rule by prohibiting the introduction of evidence in court when the evidence is related to steps

taken after an accident to correct a condition that may have contributed to the accident. The purpose of this bill is to promote public safety by allowing the correction of unsafe conditions without prejudice to a person's legal situation. The Supreme Judicial Court is considering a change to the Maine Rules of Evidence that would have the same effect as this bill.

LD 352 An Act to Authorize the Broadcasting of Information about ONTP
Persons Who Are Delinquent with Child Support Payments

| SPONSOR(S) | COMMITTEE REPORT | | AMENDMENTS ADOPTED |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----|---------------------------|
| FLOWMAN | ONTP | MAJ | |
| | OTP-AM | MIN | |

SUMMARY

Current law allows the Department of Human Services to publish the names, residences of and the amount of child support owed by delinquent child support obligors. This bill would have authorized the department to provide the same information to radio and television stations, including cable operators, for the broadcast of the information as a public service.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-77) would have added a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 366 An Act to Amend the Provisions Relating to Access to ONTP
Information for Candidates for Government Job Openings

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

SUMMARY

This bill would have allowed public access to the information regarding applicants for government jobs who are granted interviews.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-209) would have narrowed the scope of the bill to make public records the applications and resumes of candidates for specific positions at the State, county and municipal level, including school superintendents and assistant superintendents, once they have participated in a personal interview. The provisions would have been repealed October 1, 1998. The Judiciary Committee would have had the authority to report out a bill during the 1998 Legislative Session concerning these provisions.

LD 377 An Act to Extend to Businesses the Laws Concerning PUBLIC 265
Protection from Harassment

| SPONSOR(S) | COMMITTEE REPORT | AMENDMENTS ADOPTED |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| VIGUE | OTP-AM | H-328 |

SUMMARY

This bill extends the laws concerning protection from harassment to include businesses.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-328) revises the definition of "harassment" to ensure that activities protected by labor relations laws are not considered acts of harassment. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.