

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:

<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

LD 440 **An Act to Allow Name Tags at Polling Places during Election Day** ONTP

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

SUMMARY

This bill would have allowed a candidate to wear a campaign button at the polls during election day.

LD 443 **An Act to Reform Campaign Finance** PUBLIC 384

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
LEMONT OTP-AM H-520

SUMMARY

This bill established voluntary limits on campaign spending for State House of Representatives and Senate elections. The bill required all candidates to file with their registration and notification of a political committee a written statement of intent to abide by the voluntary expenditure limits or not to abide by the voluntary expenditure limits.

If any candidate agreed to the voluntary limits and exceeded the amount set by law, that candidate would have to pay 100% of the amount that exceeds the limit to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-520) changed the title of the bill to reflect the amended version; decreased the voluntary expenditure limit for State Senator from \$30,000 to \$25,000 and decreased the expenditure limit for State Representative from \$7,500 to \$5,000; removed the monetary penalty for a candidate's failure to adhere to the candidate's pledge to limit campaign expenditures; clarified that the expenditure limits can not be carried forward; and added a provision requiring the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to publish a list of candidates who filed a statement to voluntarily limit campaign finances. It also added a fiscal note to the bill.

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-324) would have replaced the bill. The amendment would have established limits on campaign spending and allowed candidates to voluntarily limit campaign expenditures. A penalty schedule and complaint process would have also been included. The amendment would have also added an appropriations section and a fiscal note to the bill. (Not adopted)

LD 448 **An Act to Permit Condominium Associations to Obtain Reimbursement for Common Expenses Pending a Mortgage Foreclosure** ONTP

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
REED G ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have brought Maine into conformity with the provisions of the Uniform Condominium Act, as approved by the major secondary mortgage market lenders. Condominium associations would have had to continue their current practice of providing exterior building and common area maintenance, insurance and other services pending a mortgage foreclosure, but the mortgage lender would have been liable for a maximum of 6 months of those costs during the foreclosure process. Currently, the associations provide these services without recompense during foreclosure, even though the foreclosure sale proceeds are often inadequate to pay the association.