

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
TRANSPORTATION

AUGUST 1995

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*\*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:

<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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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 473**      **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine to Permit Revenues Derived from the Use of Vehicles on  
Public Highways and from Alternative Modes of Transportation  
to be Used for Obtaining Access to Rights-of-Way for  
Alternative Forms of Transportation**      **ONTP**

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

**SUMMARY**

This resolution proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to permit revenues derived from the use of the highways and from alternative modes of transportation and fuels used on the highways and in alternative modes of transportation to be spent on obtaining access to rights-of-way for alternative modes of transportation.

**LD 475**      **An Act to Revise the Bidding Process for Department of  
Transportation Projects**      **ONTP**

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

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have directed the Department of Transportation to award construction contracts to in-state companies when an in-state company had submitted a bid within 3% of the lowest bid and the lowest bid was submitted by an out-of-state company.

**LD 487**      **An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force  
to Study the Safe Mobility of Maine's Aging Population**      **ONTP**

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

**SUMMARY**

This bill presented the recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Safe Mobility of Maine's Aging Population. It would have provided that one member of the Medical Advisory Board be a gerontologist. It would have required a medical professional to report an individual to the Secretary of State if the medical professional knew or suspected the individual had an uncorrected visual impairment and that individual operated a motor vehicle. It would have required a person to pass a vision exam at every license renewal after age 40. It would have directed the Secretary of State to develop a driver improvement course for drivers meeting the definition of "problem operator." It would have provided for a 2-year license to be issued to persons 75 years of age and older. It would have required pedestrian ways to be considered when projects were reviewed under site law and subdivisions were reviewed by a municipal authority.

The bill would have directed the Department of Transportation to design and implement a data collection system and design and conduct a survey of Maine's population 65 years of age and older to measure unmet transportation needs and evaluate effectiveness of existing transportation services; to develop and implement a centrally coordinated transportation information center and a volunteer driver program; and to educate Maine citizens about alternative transportation.

The bill would have directed the Superintendent of Insurance to study methods to free volunteer drivers from fear of liability. It would have directed the Secretary of State to inform medical professionals of existing immunity provisions and to monitor reports of dementia and present a summary of reports of dementia to the 118th Legislature.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-505), the minority report of the committee, would have required the Secretary of State to develop and distribute forms for reporting visual impairments and to develop and distribute materials to inform medical professionals of the reporting requirement and immunity and confidentiality provisions.

It would have revised the provisions of the bill regarding problem operators and struck the provision for a 2-year license for persons age 75 and older.

It would also have amended the bill to require the Department of Transportation to develop a plan for centrally coordinated information centers and volunteer driver programs rather than requiring implementation of a center and program.

This amendment also would have added a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 509      An Act to Require a Review of Handicapped Plates      ONTP**  
**Periodically**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
DONNELLY	ONTP	

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have required that a person who has registration plates with the handicap symbol submit annually a certificate of a physician as to that person's physical disability in order to renew the plates. (See bill summary for LD 1045).

**LD 518      An Act to Require a Second Doctor's Opinion before the      ONTP**  
**Secretary of State May Suspend a Driver's License**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
RICE	ONTP	

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have established an individual's right to a 2nd opinion when faced with the allegation that the individual is not competent to drive and the loss of a driver's license.

**LD 573      An Act to Establish Retreaded Truck Tire Safety Standards      ONTP**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
BENEDIKT	ONTP	

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have required the Commissioner of Public Safety to establish standards for retreaded truck tires that exceed federal standards and to ensure the application of those standards to all road contact tires in all truck inspections.