

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

**An Act Establishing Procedures for New Political
Parties to Participate in Primary Elections**

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

SUMMARY

This bill would have established a procedure for 3rd parties to qualify for primaries in legislative districts and for subsequent primaries and general elections. A party would have qualified for a primary in a legislative district if its candidate in the preceding general election received at least 15% of the vote in that district and had declared intent to qualify the party before that election. The bill would have also provided requirements for municipal caucuses and statewide conventions for 3rd parties.

The minority COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-522) would have replaced the bill. It would have changed the requirements that a new party must meet in order to be a qualified party. Under current law the party must poll at least 5% of the total votes cast in each presidential and gubernatorial election in order to become and remain qualified. Under the amendment, that party would have had to poll 5% of the total votes cast in either of the last two preceding general elections. The purpose of the change would have been to remove the disadvantage to new parties who do not run both gubernatorial and presidential candidates. The new party would have also been required to hold a state convention and at least one municipal caucus in each county. The amendment also would have added a fiscal note and mandate preamble to the bill.

LD 507

**An Act to Exclude Certain Parks from the Definition of
Mobile Home Parks**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
KNEELAND	ONTP	MAJ	H-560 KNEELAND
	OTP-AM	MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill exempted mobile home parks that are open and operated only on a seasonal basis from state mobile home park regulation under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, chapters 951 and 953.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "D" (H-560) replaced the bill and required that the Manufactured Housing Board accept as compliance with its rules, documentation submitted by a seasonal mobile home park that substantially similar provisions regarding matters of safety required by another government agency had been met. The amendment would have also clarified that the stricter standard applies.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-142) would have provided that mobile home parks that are operated only for migratory laborers on a seasonal basis are exempt from regulation under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, chapters 951 and 953. It would have also added a fiscal note to the bill. (Not adopted)

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-446) would have required that the Manufactured Housing Board accept as compliance with its rules documentation submitted by a seasonal mobile home park that substantially similar provisions regarding matters of safety required by another government agency had been met. (Not adopted)

HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-480) unsuccessfully attempted to do the same as HOUSE AMENDMENT "D" and HOUSE AMENDMENT "C" (H-531) would have added a fiscal note to the original bill. (Not adopted)