

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

| SPONSOR(S) | COMMITTEE REPORT | | AMENDMENTS ADOPTED |
|------------|------------------|-----|--------------------|
| RICHARDSON | OTP-AM | MAJ | H-164 |
| | ONTP | MIN | S-137 KIEFFER |

SUMMARY

This bill amended the presidential primary election laws in the following ways.

1. The bill changed the date of the presidential preference primary election to coincide with New Hampshire's presidential primary election, beginning January 1, 2000.
2. The bill outlined what information was necessary to have a party certification complete for participation in a presidential primary election.
3. The bill changed the number of signatures a candidate needed to file a petition with the Secretary of State if the candidate had not paid a filing fee.
4. The bill amended the list of people who must be added to the ballot if they qualified.
5. The bill amended the method of selection for the delegates to the national presidential nominating convention.
6. The bill amended the law so that the word "uncommitted" appeared at the end of the list on the ballot so that a voter could choose this preference rather than a listed candidate.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-164) removed the temporary exemption granted to state committees in the party certification process in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 411-A. It also changed the filing date from December 31st to December 1st for candidates who chose to pay a filing fee to get their name on the presidential primary ballot, rather than use the petition process. This date change resulted in identical deadlines for the filing fee and the petition process.

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-137) granted state committees the choice to select a contrary allocation and selection procedure for 1996 only.

LD 610 An Act to Create an Open Primary in the State

ONTP

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

SUMMARY

This bill would have allowed an unenrolled voter to vote in a primary by allowing the voter to choose in which party's primary the voter would like to participate. The election clerk would have provided the voter with the ballot for that party and indicate on the voter's list in which party that the voter participated.

The minority COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-178) added a fiscal note to the bill.