

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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**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 & 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 623

An Act to Set Spending Limits for Legislative Campaigns

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
TUTTLE

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have established limits on campaign spending and allowed candidates to limit voluntarily the amount of money they spent on a campaign. The bill would have also set up a penalty schedule for candidates who exceeded the voluntary spending limits.

LD 637

An Act to Change the Commissions Payable to the State from Off-track Betting

PUBLIC 403
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
PARADIS

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-156 MICHAUD
S-95

SUMMARY

This bill increased the market area around an off-track betting parlor from a 35-mile radius to a 50-mile radius. A proposed off-track betting parlor was required to obtain approval from an existing parlor if the proposed parlor was located within the market area of the existing parlor.

The bill also reduced the amounts payable by an off-track betting parlor to the Sire Stakes Fund, the Agricultural Stipend Fund, the General Fund, the Harness Racing Promotional Fund and purse supplements in any week in which the total wagers made at the parlor were less than \$100,000.

Finally, the bill granted a credit toward required payments to parlors that lost money in calendar year 1994, as determined by audited financial statements.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-95) replaced the bill. The amendment removed the bill's proposed increase in the required distance between off-track betting parlors, eliminated the credit toward required payments to parlors that lost money in 1994, and made the commission reductions available only to off-track betting parlors licensed and open before January 1, 1995, located in areas of 50,000 or fewer people.

The commissions were reduced to 20% of the original commission for the first \$40,000 of wagers per calendar week, 60% of the original commission for the second \$40,000 of wagers per calendar week, and 100% of the original commission for any wagers in excess of \$80,000 per calendar week. A repeal provision and fiscal note were also added to the bill.

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-156) removed payments to the General Fund from the list of payments reduced by the reduced payment formula.

LD 652

An Act Pertaining to the Signing of Petitions

PUBLIC 102

SPONSOR(S)
AULT

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP MAJ
ONTP MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill allowed voters to sign as many nomination petitions as they chose, regardless of the number of vacancies to be filled.