

STATE OF MAINE 117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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, <u>History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents</u>, 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:

CARRIED OVER	Bill carried over to Second Session
CON RES XXX	Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY	Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT	Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT	Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
INDEF PP	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass report accepted
P&S XXX	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX	Chapter # of enacted Resolve
UNSIGNED	Not signed by Governor within 10 days
VETO SUSTAINED	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

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

SUMMARY

This bill would have required the State to hire two interpreters to work for state agencies and two interpreters to work for the Legislature to begin to satisfy mandates that require the State and the Legislature to be accessible to persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. The bill requires the hiring entities to involve the deaf and hard of hearing in the hiring process and the interviews. The bill requires reports from the Legislature and the state accessibility office on plans to achieve compliance with state and federal laws. The reports must include costs and necessary legislation. The bill assists the State and the Legislature in meeting the requirements of state and federal law, but does not in and of itself achieve or ensure compliance. The bill also brings up to date language in current law.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-432) revises the proposal that the Legislature hire two full-time, year-round interpreters. Instead, the amendment would have required the Legislative Council to hire at least two session-only employees to serve as interpreters to provide interpretive services for official legislative business within the State House complex, including interpreting communications between Legislators and their constituents. It would have directed the Legislative Council to establish a priority ranking of the locations in which to have the large-area listening systems installed.

It clarifies that the Legislative Council is responsible for preparing and submitting a report on behalf of the Legislature, and the Office of Rehabilitation Services will prepare the report for the Executive Department, concerning the use of closed captioning, large-area listening systems, portable assistive listening systems and full audio wiring for hearing rooms.

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-394) eliminates the requirements that the Legislature employ session-only interpreters and install large area listening services. It requires the Legislative Council to include in its report plans for the use of interpreting services for legislative business.

LD 632	An Act to Refor	rm the Child Custody Laws	ONTP
	SPONSOR(S) GWADOSKY	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have made several reforms concerning procedures and orders when the custody of a child is involved: requiring the court to require the parents to prepare a detailed plan indicating how the award of allocated or shared parental rights and responsibilities will be carried out; requiring the court to include in the final order a statement explaining why the court awarded parental rights and responsibilities as it did; requiring a parent who wants to relocate the child outside the state or to a place more than 250 miles from where the other parent resides in this state to give written notice to the court and the other parent before making the move; requiring the Department of Human Services to complete any investigations requested by the court within 60 days after receiving the request; requiring the appointment of a guardian ad litem in all contested custody cases; requiring the presiding judge to prepare a record of all proceedings in child custody and support matters. The Committee sent a letter to the Judicial Department urging progress on developing the capability to record all proceedings.

LD 633	An Act to Require Parental Notification for Minors Seeking	ONTP
	Abortions	

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