

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 & 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 574 An Act to Require the Department of Transportation to Post Signs Indicating That Headlights Must Be On When Windshield Wipers Are in Use ONTP

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PENDLETON ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have required headlights to be on whenever windshield wipers are used. The bill also would have directed the Department of Transportation to erect signs informing motor vehicle operators that the headlights on their motor vehicles must be on when the windshield wipers are in use.

LD 591 An Act to Give Motor Vehicle Drivers and Owners the Option of Keeping Motor Vehicle Information Confidential ONTP

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
DORE ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have restricted the unauthorized sale of information contained on motor vehicle registrations and drivers' licenses.

LD 614 An Act to Improve Safety of School Buses ONTP

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
AULT ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have required a school bus driver to meet the qualifications for a commercial vehicle driver established in the federal motor carrier safety regulations. It also would have required exhaust systems on school buses to meet the requirements established in the federal motor carrier safety regulations.

LD 617 An Act to Raise the Fee for Legislative Registration Plates ONTP

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MCELROY ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill would have raised the fee charged for a license plate for a public official.

LD 640 An Act to Broaden the Scope of the Farm Registration Laws to Include Farm Woodland Trucks ONTP

SPONSOR(S) COMMITTEE REPORT AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BEGLEY ONTP MAJ
OTP-AM MIN S-170

SUMMARY

This bill would have allowed one truck owned by a farm woodland owner and used primarily in the course of activities related to the production or transportation of forest products to be registered as a farm truck.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-170), the minority report of the committee, would have clarified that a farm woodland truck registered as a farm truck may only transport forest products harvested on the registered owner's land. It also would have required a farm woodland truck to meet all applicable inspection requirements. This amendment also would have added a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 685 An Act to Facilitate Efficiency of Inspections of ONTP
Commercial Motor Vehicles

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

SUMMARY

This bill would have given motor carrier inspectors the authority to stop and weigh commercial motor vehicles without a state police officer being present.

LD 689 An Act to Amend the Law Regulating 53-foot Semitrailers PUBLIC 441

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
BAILEY OTP-AM H-305

SUMMARY

This bill proposed to repeal the law requiring a permit and the payment of a fee for the operation of a single semitrailer longer than 48 feet but not exceeding 53 feet. The bill also proposed to repeal the requirement of a permit to operate these semitrailers off certain designated routes.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-305) replaces the original bill. It provides for the operation of a truck tractor and 53-foot semitrailer on a highway network and access system designated by the Commissioner of Transportation. It provides for access to service facilities within 1/2 mile of the network and access system and for access permits to terminals beyond 1/2 mile. It retains the permit system and permit fees. It also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 698 An Act to Direct Additional Funds to the Department of ONTP
Conservation by Amending the Loon Plate Laws

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

SUMMARY

This bill would have changed current law to ensure that, with the exception of the one-time administrative costs associated with production and initial issuance of environmental registration plates, all proceeds would be devoted to natural resource protection programs.

LD 699 An Act to Amend the Weight Requirement for a Motor Vehicle ONTP
Traveling on Certain Roads

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

SUMMARY

Current law prohibits vehicles from traveling over public ways with a gross registered weight that exceeds the weight prescribed by the Department of Transportation. This bill would have deleted the words "gross registered", making the prohibition apply to actual weight of vehicle.