

# 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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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 665 An Act to Allow Nonresidents to Transport into the State  
Liquor Purchased in New Hampshire**

ONTP

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>		<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
MURPHY	ONTP	MAJ	
	OTP-AM	MIN	

**SUMMARY**

Under current law, transporting 10 or more gallons of spirits, wine or malt liquor is a Class E crime. This bill would have permitted nonresidents to transport under 10 gallons of spirits, wine or malt liquor into the State if it was purchased in a New Hampshire liquor store.

The minority COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-163) added a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 672 An Act to Ensure Appropriate and Equitable Penalties for  
Violation of Electoral Laws**

ONTP

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
DAGGETT	ONTP	

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have amended the penalties for violation of election laws to ensure that they are both adequate and consistent with the context of the rest of state law, including the Maine Criminal Code. It would have amended the general penalty section of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, restating the crime as a Class E crime.

This bill would have also added the specific intent of adding or removing names on a voting list without the right to do so to affect the other person's eligibility to vote and reduced that crime to a Class D crime.

This bill would have reduced to a Class D crime the act of causing a delay in registration, enrollment or delivery of absentee ballots or absentee ballot applications if done with the intent to prevent a person from voting or to render that person's vote ineffective.

This bill would have made it a crime to use cellular phones and other devices with the intent of affecting the outcome of any election, and would have reclassified impermissible candidate involvement in the absentee ballot process from a Class C crime to a Class D crime.

The bill would have specified that the penalty for forging another's name on an absentee ballot, return envelope or absentee ballot application is a Class C crime.

The bill would have amended the law regarding tampering with or damaging voting devices, ballot cards or other records or equipment, and would have specified that the intent of engaging in those activities had to be to change the outcome of any election.

The bill would have clarified that unless otherwise specified, the penalties established in Title 21-A for violations of the election laws also applied to violations of the municipal election laws in Title 30-A.