

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY

AUGUST 1995

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Sen. Joan M. Pendexter  
Sen. Sean F. Faircloth*

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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

provided that on the second arrest for the same judgment, debtors would be jailed unless they post cash bond. The jailing is not for failure to pay but for failure to appear in the first civil order of arrest process to determine why the debtor has not paid and whether the debtor is able to pay. The bill required that the debtors be warned at the first arrest that this consequence will follow.

**LD 670 An Act to Extend the Medical Liability Demonstration Project Deadline by 3 Years**

PUBLIC 343

**SPONSOR(S)**

SAXL J

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

H-502

**SUMMARY**

This bill extends the deadline of the medical liability demonstration project by 3 years. This project was established by the Bureau of Insurance and the Board of Licensure in Medicine. The bill establishes a date when an interim report is due and establishes the final report date as December 1, 2000.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-502) adds a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 679 An Act to Strengthen the Laws Currently Governing the Failure to Preserve the Life of a Live Born Person**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**

AHEARNE

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have made the failure to provide treatment to a live born person a Class B crime. The bill was voted ONTP without a public hearing at the request of the sponsor.

**LD 683 An Act to Clarify the Status of Sewer Districts and Refuse Disposal Districts as Special Purpose Districts under the Maine Tort Claims Act**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**

MORRISON

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have clarified by specific reference that any sewer district or refuse disposal district is a special purpose district for purposes of the application of the Maine Tort Claims Act.

**LD 697 An Act Governing Privileged Communications between Victims of Domestic Violence and Their Advocates**

PUBLIC 128

**SPONSOR(S)**

AMERO

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

S-78

**SUMMARY**

This bill establishes the parameters of privilege for confidential communications between victims of domestic or family violence and advocates who provide services and counseling for the victims. The addresses of family violence shelters and safe houses are protected absolutely. Other confidential