

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 & 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 794 **An Act to Limit the Size and Display Period of Campaign Signs** **ONTP**

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

SUMMARY

This bill would have decreased the time that signs bearing political messages could be displayed on a public right-of-way and established a maximum sign size. It would have also authorized a municipality or town to remove and dispose of uncollected signs and to bill the candidate for the associated costs.

The minority COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-165) would have increased from 14 to 30 the number of days that political signs could be displayed prior to any election. The amendment would have also clarified that the restrictions on political signs refer to all elections, by assigning the definition in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 1 to the term "any election."

LD 805 **An Act to Make Appropriations to Improve Services to Veterans** **ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MAYO	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill would have provided a General Fund appropriation for 4 Clerk Stenographer II positions within the Department of Defense and Veterans' Services to provide services to veterans.

LD 808 **An Act to Better Enable Small Businesses to Keep On-line Lottery Machines** **ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
POULIN	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill would have given on-line lottery agents the option of keeping their machines if their average monthly sales were below that set by the State Liquor and Lottery Commission. Instead of the commission removing an agent's machine when an agent's sales were below the required monthly average, the agent would have had the option to pay the commission \$50 per month toward the costs of maintaining the machine's phone line in any month the agent's sales were below the required average.

LD 829 **An Act to Strengthen Maine's Live Harness Racing Industry** **PUBLIC 408
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
REED G	OTP-AM	H-580 KERR

SUMMARY

This bill made changes to the laws governing harness racing, including amending the definition of "commercial track," enacting a definition of "commercial meet," changing the amount payable to the Stipend Fund and changing the criteria for the distribution of amounts to supplement purses.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-580) was identical to HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" with one exception. It clarified that the language granting a commercial track all the race dates it requests, provided it was granted those dates in the previous year, begins with licenses granted during calendar year 1996.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-500) would have replaced the original bill, but kept the provisions that changed the distribution of purse funds, amended the definition of "commercial meet," changed the amount payable to the Stipend Fund and changed the criteria for the distribution of amounts to supplement purses. The changes in the definition for "commercial track" would have been deleted.

New provisions in the amendment would have included:

1. A change in the payment dates from the 15th of May, September and January to the 30th of May, September and January;
2. A provision to allow for the appropriate calculation of 1995 payments since the distribution formula changes in the middle of the year;
3. A definition for "race date";
4. A requirement that the State Harness Racing Commission grant a commercial track all the race dates it requests if it was granted those live race dates in the preceding year;
5. The removal of the automatic veto power of a racetrack or existing off-track betting facility over a new off-track betting facility application to prevent possible antitrust violations;
6. The criteria that live racing be conducted on a minimum of 150 race dates in Maine before any interstate simulcasting of off-track betting is permitted by the commission;
7. A moratorium on the issuance of new licenses for betting on simulcasting races until May 31, 1996 in order to prevent possible antitrust violations that may place the State at financial risk, until a comprehensive approach can be enacted. This moratorium applies to applications currently on file with the commission and to applications currently in litigation; and
8. An allocation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-561) was nearly identical to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" except that it would not have removed the industry veto language in existing law that put the state at-risk for anti-trust violation and it would not have included a moratorium on new applications for off-track betting facilities. (Not adopted)

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-594) would have required that the licensee of any facility licensed to accept pari-mutual wagers on horse races to deduct 1% from all winning amounts. That 1% was to be deposited to the General Fund. (Not adopted)

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-532) and HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" TO HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-578) would have been identical to HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" to HOUSE AMENDMENT "B". (Not adopted)