

# 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

**SPONSOR(S)**  
HEESCHEN

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-437

**SUMMARY**

This bill directed the Legislative Apportionment Commission to consider certain geographic guidelines when reapportioning state legislative districts. The guidelines were intended to supplement the Constitution of Maine.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-437) made the Supreme Judicial Court subject to the same statutory provisions as the Legislative Apportionment Commission when it was required to make the apportionment. It also added "oceans" to the definition of "functionally contiguous and compact territory" and required that the commission and the court give weight to the interests of local communities in making their boundary decisions.

**LD 882 An Act to Qualify the Secretary of State's Ability to Invalidate a Petition**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**  
GERRY

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP MAJ  
OTP-AM MIN

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have clarified that the failure of a clerk of a municipality to meet the statutory and constitutional requirements of petition verification and certification was not sufficient cause to invalidate a petition, if petition circulators and signers met their statutory and constitutional requirements. It would have also required the Secretary of State to specifically notify the applicant of the petition and the clerk when verification and certification errors were made, and would have required that the Secretary of State return the petitions to the clerk who made the error for correction.

The minority COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-309) would have added a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 920 An Act to Ensure That Landlords and Tenants Are Aware of the Right to a Court Hearing**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**  
ADAMS

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have required that tenants be informed on any notice intended to terminate a tenancy that they may be summonsed to a court eviction hearing where they have the right to present any defenses.

**LD 936 An Act to Clarify the Discretion of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices in Assessing Penalties**

PUBLIC 228  
EMERGENCY

**SPONSOR(S)**  
JACQUES

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-308

**SUMMARY**

This bill explicitly provided that the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices has discretion to assess penalties.