

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

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.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-308) added a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 945 An Act to Allow Candidates to Donate Surplus Campaign Funds to Charitable and Educational Institutions PUBLIC 193

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
LONGLEY GERRY	OTP	

SUMMARY

This bill allowed a candidate to donate surplus campaign funds to a charitable or educational organization.

LD 976 An Act Regarding Liquor Licenses for Golf Courses PUBLIC 195

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
LAWRENCE	OTP-AM	S-155

SUMMARY

This bill provided for the issuance of auxiliary licenses for the sale of spirits, wine and malt liquor at golf clubs.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-155) replaced the bill. It made auxiliary licenses for golf courses subject to the same provisions as auxiliary licenses for ski areas and added a fiscal note. It also required all auxiliary licensees to be properly equipped with restrooms.

LD 980 An Act to Amend the Charter of the Somerset Woods Trustees to Eliminate the Cap on the Value of Holdings P & S 24

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MILLS HATCH	OTP	

SUMMARY

This bill amended the charter of the Somerset Woods Trustees to eliminate the cap on the value of holdings.

LD 999 An Act to Allow for Substitution of a Presidential Candidate Nominated by Petition ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PERKINS	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill would have allowed for the substitution of a presidential candidate nominated by petition.