

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
TRANSPORTATION

AUGUST 1995

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*\*Denotes Chair*



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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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-457) clarifies that photographs and other images for enforcement of tolls are confidential. The Maine Turnpike Authority must make this information available to law enforcement officers upon request. The amendment makes logs and records of the authority confidential. The authority may make specific records available to law enforcement officers and representatives of insurance companies and may release accident and incident reports to affected parties.

**LD 893      An Act to Extend the Period of Time an Operator May Operate      ONTP**  
**a Motor Vehicle with a Temporary Registration Plate**

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

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have increased from 14 to 30 the number of days a person may operate a motor vehicle or trailer with a temporary registration plate.

**LD 930      An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws      PUBLIC 247**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
STROUT	OTP-AM	H-306

**SUMMARY**

This bill allows police vehicles to be equipped with strobe lights behind the rear brake lenses; removes outdated placarding terms; and repeals language regarding the binding of loads, which is covered in greater detail in the Code of Federal Regulations.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-306) allows a law enforcement officer to issue a permit to operate a vehicle when the registration has been expired for more than 30 days. The permit is valid for operating the vehicle to the owner's residence or to an office of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to register the vehicle. This amendment also prohibits backing a motor vehicle on a limited access highway.

**LD 942      An Act to Improve Highway Signing Information      PUBLIC 416**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
GWADOSKY	OTP-AM	H-491 S-401

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have directed the Department of Transportation to establish a logo signing program for the controlled access highways of the State. This bill also directed the department to review signing and implement recommendations to make signs easier for public use.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-491) replaces the bill. The amendment allows the Commissioner of Transportation to authorize the placement of logo signs within the right-of-way of the interstate system. Prior to authorizing any logo signs, the commissioner must adopt rules regulating the size, shape, manner and location of logo signs. The amendment also directs the commissioner to prepare a long-term plan for making the State's highway signs easier to use. The amendment also adds an allocation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE AMENDMENT "C" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-401) limits logo and service signing along the interstate to one sign per exit and prohibits the new logo signs from being any larger than existing service signs. The amendment also clarifies that logo signs may include logos for tourist attractions such as museums or other locations of public interest.

The amendment also postpones the adoption of rules to implement logo signing until March 15, 1996 and requires the Commissioner of Transportation to report the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation in January 1996.

**LD 944      An Act to Conform Regulations of Off-system Railroads to      ONTP**  
**Federal Standards**

**SPONSOR(S)**                      **COMMITTEE REPORT**                      **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
LORD                                      ONTP

**SUMMARY**

This bill proposed to narrow the scope of regulation relating to off-system railroads by excluding from the definition of off-system railroad certain railroads that service industrial facilities.

**LD 962      An Act to Require Certain Motorists to Yield When      ONTP**  
**Traveling under the Speed Limit**

**SPONSOR(S)**                      **COMMITTEE REPORT**                      **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
CAMERON                                      ONTP

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have required motorists traveling under the posted speed limit on 2-lane roads to pull into paved breakdown lanes to let closely following vehicles pass.

**LD 1009      An Act to Change the Renewal Fee of the Loon License Plate      ONTP**  
**and to Dedicate the Revenue Generated**

**SPONSOR(S)**                      **COMMITTEE REPORT**                      **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
DAMREN                                      ONTP

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have reduced the amount for renewal of the loon plates from \$20 to \$10 and provided that from the original and renewal fees, \$6 would be credited to the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Recreation and \$4 credited to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for nongame programs.

**LD 1012      An Act to Discontinue the Issuance of the Lobster License      ONTP**  
**Plate**

**SPONSOR(S)**                      **COMMITTEE REPORT**                      **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
LEMKE                                      ONTP

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have required the Secretary of State to discontinue the issuance of lobster-illustrated registration plates once the current supply was exhausted.