

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

AUGUST 1995

Staff:

Roy Lenardson, Legislative Analyst
David C. Elliott, Principal Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670

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*Denotes Chair



**Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

State House Station 13, Augusta, Maine 04333
Telephone (207) 287-1670
Telecopier (207) 287-1275

**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:

CARRIED OVER	<i>Bill carried over to Second Session</i>
CON RES XXX	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
EMERGENCY	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
FAILED ENACTMENT	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
P&S XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
PUBLIC XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
RESOLVE XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
UNSIGNED	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
VETO SUSTAINED	<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

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits the use of public funds by municipal officers to challenge the validity of a municipal charter, any provision of the charter or any amendment or revision of the charter.

LD 1026 **An Act to Amend the Laws Dealing with Municipalities Having the Option of Inspecting Buildings** ONTP

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

SUMMARY

This bill requires all towns to appoint an inspector of buildings. Currently it is only required in towns of 2,000 or more inhabitants and is optional for towns with fewer than 2,000 habitants.

LD 1095 **An Act to Provide Equal Political Rights for Classified State Employees** DIED BETWEEN BODIES

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
RUHLIN OTP-AM A
HATCH OTP-AM B

SUMMARY

This bill expands and details the prohibitions on political activity for classified state employees. The bill also removes the restrictions on classified state employees relating to fund raising and political contributions on nonwork time when no conflict of interest exists. The bill is intended to parallel federal legislation enacted in 1993 removing these restrictions from most federal employees.

LD 1096 **An Act to Amend the Law Governing Municipal Zoning with Respect to Community Living Arrangements** PUBLIC 212

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
BUSTIN OTP-AM S-150

SUMMARY

This bill amends the current law governing municipal zoning by allowing a local zoning board to grant a zoning variance for persons with disabilities who use the property, instead of limiting the variance to persons with disabilities living on the property. The bill also repeals the requirement of a municipality to hold a public hearing prior to approval of a community living facility.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-150) replaces the original bill. The amendment clarifies that variances for accessibility purposes are limited to the dwelling and for a person who resides in or regularly uses the dwelling. Section 2 of the bill is removed, which would have repealed the public hearing requirement prior to approval of a community living facility.

LD 1107 **An Act to Establish Minimum Qualifications for the Office of Sheriff** PUBLIC 156

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
BUNKER OTP

SUMMARY

This bill establishes minimum qualifications for candidates for election or appointment to the office of county sheriff. These requirements are consistent with standards set by the Maine Criminal Justice Academy for certification as a law enforcement executive. Persons serving in the office of sheriff on the effective date of enactment would be "grandfathered," or deemed to meet these minimum qualifications.

**LD 1123 An Act to Ensure That Rulemaking by Agencies Does Not Exceed
the Intent of Authorizing Legislation**

PUBLIC 463

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT		AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CAMPBELL	OTP-AM	MAJ	H-584
CIANCHETTE	OTP-AM	MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill revises agency rule-making procedures to require legislative review and approval of each agency rule before it is finally adopted and implemented by the agency. Just prior to final adoption, each agency rule must be submitted to the appropriate legislative joint standing committee for review. Following review, the committee submits a report to the full Legislature, which must then enact authorizing legislation before final adoption and implementation by the agency may occur. The bill also defines any agency meeting held to receive public comment on a proposed agency rule as a public hearing. Any such meeting, whatever it is called by the agency, is subject to the public hearing requirements of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-584) replaces the bill. It amends the Administrative Procedure Act to provide for greater legislative oversight of certain new agency rules. Rules adopted pursuant to authorizing legislation enacted after January 1, 1996 are divided into 2 categories, routine technical and major substantive. Any rules authorized in the future will be assigned to a category in the authorizing legislation. Routine technical rules are subject to current rule-making requirements. The most significant or controversial type of rule, major substantive, is subject to a higher level of legislative scrutiny. Proposed major substantive rules must be reviewed by the Legislature before they may be implemented by an agency. Following review, the Legislature may enact legislation authorizing final agency adoption of all or part of the rule or overriding the proposed rule. If the Legislature fails to act, the agency may adopt and implement the rule.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" (H-585) would have replaced the bill. It amends the current legislative review of agency rules law to allow members of the public affected by certain rules to petition the Legislature for review of proposed agency rules. Upon citizen request, the legislative committee of jurisdiction would decide whether to review a proposed rule. Standards for review are set and, if a rule is found to violate those standards, legislation could be introduced to override the rule. The amendment also amends the Maine Administrative Procedure Act in several ways. It reduces the number of forms required to be filed providing notice of proposed rulemaking and increases the information provided to the Legislature at the proposal stage. The amendment requires all agencies to meet with the committee of jurisdiction to review the agency's regulatory agenda and expands the information required to be provided to the Legislature as part of the regulatory agenda. Negotiated rule-making guidelines are incorporated into the Maine Administrative Procedure Act and agencies are encouraged to use those procedures during appropriate rule-making proceedings. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 1126 Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks
and Recreation to Sell Land and Improvements on Hospital
Street in Augusta, Maine Known as the Trial House**

RESOLVE 20

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
DAGGETT	OTP-AM	H-275