

# 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

**MEMBERS:**

*\*Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr.*  
*Sen. Albert G. Stevens, Jr.*  
*Sen. Michael H. Michaud*

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*\*Rep. Guy R. Nadeau*  
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*Rep. Harry G. True*  
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*Rep. Kenneth F. Lemont*  
*Rep. John T. Buck*  
*Rep. Janice E. Labrecque*

*\*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

**LD 1218 An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to Harness Racing**

CARRIED OVER

**SPONSOR(S)**  
KERR

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill authorized the operation at existing regulated pari-mutuel facilities of video lottery terminals and established the State's share of net terminal income at 40%.

This bill was carried over until the second session.

**LD 1223 An Act to Reform Campaign Financing by Changing the Nature of Television Advertising by Candidates**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**  
CIANCHETTE

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have reformed the campaign finance laws by prohibiting candidates for the offices of Governor, United States Senator, United States Representative, State Senator and State Representative from including paid television advertising in their campaigns. The bill would have required Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation to televise election debates or provide candidate exposure in other formats no more than 3 weeks before a primary election or 6 weeks before a general election.

**LD 1246 An Act to Implement Campaign Finance Reforms**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**  
MARTIN

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill, based on model state legislation, would have established a voluntary system for limiting campaign spending for the offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative. The bill would have:

1. Amended the duties of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to specifically include the administration of the Maine Campaign Fund.
2. Given the Attorney General, as counsel to the commission, the authority to issue advisory opinions to candidates and political organizations regarding the Maine Campaign Fund and related laws.
3. Created the Maine Campaign Fund by allowing resident taxpayers to divert \$2 of their taxes from the General Fund to the Maine Campaign Fund or \$4 for spouses filing jointly.
4. Limited individual contributions to those participating in the Maine Campaign Fund to \$100 per individual contribution and prohibited the acceptance of contributions from political action committees.
5. Established minimum levels of qualifying contributions for a candidate's participation in the Maine Campaign Fund.