

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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**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 & 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

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.

6. Limited expenditures by participating candidates based on a per capita amount per registered voter in the State for Governor or a district for Legislators.
7. Established penalties for violations of the requirements for participation in the Maine Campaign Fund.

LD 1257 An Act to Clarify That an Arrearage by a Federally Assisted Tenant Applies Only to the Tenant's Share ONTP

SPONSOR(S) CLEVELAND	COMMITTEE REPORT ONTP	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
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SUMMARY

This bill would have provided that, in calculating rent arrearages for purposes of eviction, a tenant who is a recipient of a federal rent subsidy must be considered in arrears if the tenant's share of the rent has not been paid.

LD 1299 An Act to Restrict Private Political Campaign Contributions in State Elections ONTP

SPONSOR(S) RICHARDSON CARLETON	COMMITTEE REPORT ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
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SUMMARY

This bill would have amended existing campaign and election practices as follows.

1. The Commission of Governmental Ethics and Election Practices would have been replaced by the Maine Elections and Ethics Commission, an independent 6-member commission appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, the Governor and the Chancellor of the University of Maine System with confirmation by the Senate.
2. The Maine Democracy Fund would have been established to finance election campaigns for the offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative. It would have received money from the following sources: a \$4 Maine taxpayer filing fee; increased lobbyist registration fees; and candidate filing fees.
3. Candidates who would have participated in the fund would have been required to obtain an increased number of signatures for their nominations. Those candidates would have been eligible to receive State of Maine debit cards to be used for all campaign expenditures; these cards would have drawn down amounts credited to each candidate's account in the Maine Democracy Fund as specified by the law for each office.
4. Non-participating candidates would have been required to follow reporting requirements that were similar to present requirements, except that more frequent campaign finance reports would have been required. If nonparticipating candidates exceeded the spending limit set for participating candidates, a participating opponent would have received funds on a dollar-for-dollar match with the nonparticipating candidate's expenditures, but the participating opponent's expenditures would have been capped at 3 times the original amount credited to a participating candidate under the bill.
5. The bill would have placed strict limits on in-kind contributions and soft money expenditures for participating candidates.