

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:

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Sen. Albert G. Stevens, Jr.
Sen. Michael H. Michaud

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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

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.

6. The bill would have required the Maine Elections and Ethics Commission to provide recommendations for additional provisions concerning audits, accountability and sanctions to be presented to the Legislature for adoption or disapproval.

The minority COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-354) would have added an allocation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1363 An Act to Clarify Definitions Under the Laws Concerning CARRIED OVER
Games of Chance

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
MICHAUD

SUMMARY

This bill clarified the definitions of game of chance and game of skill. This bill was carried over until the second session.

LD 1327 An Act to Expand Eligibility for the Maine Veterans' Homes PUBLIC 211

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

SUMMARY

This bill provided that, for purposes of admission into Maine Veterans' Homes, eligible veterans included persons on active duty at any time during the period from December 22, 1961 to August 5, 1964.

LD 1373 An Act to Prohibit Fairs from Restricting Simulcasting at ONTP
Off-track Betting Parlors

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
VIGUE ONTP
CAREY

SUMMARY

This bill would have removed the statutory provisions that gave a noncommercial racing licensee the authority to prohibit an off-track betting parlor from simulcasting racing events when the licensee is running races.

LD 1377 An Act to Require That Campaign Finance Reports Be Archived ONTP

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

SUMMARY

This bill would have required that the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices establish a retention schedule for campaign reports filed with them. The retention period could not have been less than 25 years.