

# 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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*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 &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 1444 An Act to Strengthen the Governmental Ethics and Campaign Reports and Finances Laws**

PUBLIC 483

**SPONSOR(S)**  
WHITCOMB

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-572  
H-587 CAMERON

**SUMMARY**

This bill changed the penalties for reporting violations by candidates and political action committees by establishing separate, higher penalties for specific violations of the campaign reporting law.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-572) replaced the bill, and included the original Committee Amendment "A" from LD 240, An Act to Require Reporting by Political Action Committees that Endorse or Provide Funds to Local Municipal Candidates. The amendment increased the population threshold for requiring municipal office and municipal referenda to be subject to the same campaign reporting laws as state and county offices from 10,000 to 15,000. Municipalities of less than 15,000 could adopt these provisions if they vote to do so. It also established that for most municipal reporting the municipal clerk assumes the functions otherwise assigned to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. The commission retained its sole authority to prescribe the content and format of the reporting forms.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-587) was presented on behalf of the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading to correct incorrect histories and to prevent a conflict by incorporating changes made to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 21-A, section 1017-A, subsection 5 in Public Law 1995, chapter 228.

**LD 1455 An Act Requiring Mobile Home Park Operators to Notify Lienholders Prior to Eviction**

PUBLIC 365

**SPONSOR(S)**  
WINSOR

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-460

**SUMMARY**

This bill permitted mobile home park owners or operators to require that rent and charges be paid in full before a mobile home was removed from a mobile home park. It also required mobile home park operators to notify a lienholder prior to evicting a tenant, provided the lienholder had notified the park operator of a lien against the tenant's home. If the lienholder had notified the park owner of the lien and paid the total amount due, the lienholder could exercise all right of tenancy, including the right to sell the home in the park if foreclosure proceedings were initiated.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-460) clarified that only recurring monthly charges applicable to all mobile home lots were subject to reimbursement. It also required that the lienholder pay rent and other charges incurred after the notice was issued to exercise right of tenancy, and that if a mobile home part owner or operator elected to utilize this provision, they must establish it in their park rules.