

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 1524

**Resolve, to Create an Advisory Commission to Review
Long-term Liquor Policies and Pricing**

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
ADAMS

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This resolve would have created an advisory commission to review long-term liquor policies and pricing.

LD 1527

**An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Maine Elections and
Campaign Finance Laws**

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
TREAT

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have replaced the existing Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices with the Maine Elections and Ethics Commission. Membership in the new commission would have consisted of 5 members to be appointed as follows.

1. A nomination period would have been established for individuals and organizations to nominate members to the commission.
2. Taking into consideration the nominations, the Governor would have appointed the members of the commission subject to review by the Legislature.

The members would have served staggered 4-year terms, except for 3 of the initial appointees, who would have served for 2-year terms. A person would not have been permitted to serve more than 2 consecutive terms. The qualifications of the commissioners would have been amended to prohibit appointment of persons actively involved in partisan politics and persons who had recently served in public office.

The duties, powers, structure and authority of the commission would have been enhanced and would have specified that the commission:

1. Would have issued advisory opinions;
2. Would have expanded authority to investigate violations; and
3. Would have authorized negotiations for consent agreements, and would have imposed civil penalties for certain violations and would have exercised more flexibility in enforcing penalties.

The commissioners would have been entitled to a per diem and would have been aided in carrying out their duties by an executive director.

The bill would have further established the Maine Elections and Ethics Commission Fund. Its purpose would have been to provide the commission with funds to institute electronic submission of reports and computerized tracking of campaign and finance-related information.

The Maine Elections and Ethics Commission would have also been charged with reviewing current ethics standards for certain executive and legislative employees, recommending further ethics standards and assuming jurisdiction over and enforcement of those standards. The commission would have been required to report its recommendations and any implementing legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over legal and veterans affairs by January 1, 1997.