

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TRANSPORTATION**

JUNE 1996

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Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy
Sen. Judy A. Paradis*

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**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

***Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
June 1996***

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are 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 finally passed 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>

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 4, 1996.

House Amendment "C" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-895) proposed changing the appointment process for members of the task force on the production and issuance of license plates. Instead of the Chairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation appointing the members, it proposed giving the authority to House and Senate leadership.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 645, Part A makes the fees associated with the University of Maine System plates consistent with the conservation registration plate fees. It repeals language that allowed a registrant to retain an existing plate number for use on an antique vehicle. It also repeals the requirement that persons with a disability have their name on the registration placard.

It allows the Secretary of State to eliminate the certificate of lien document and allows the certificate of title to act as both prima facie evidence of ownership and documentation for lien purposes. It requires a salvage vehicle repaired by the use of a front or rear clip to be designated as a rebuilt salvage on the certificate of title. It increases the amount of liability insurance that dealers must carry to maintain dealer plates.

It requires a licensee's signature to be the same as the name displayed on the license. It corrects the reference to the designation on a driver's license for special endorsement.

Part B of the enacted law does the following.

It allows the Secretary of State to develop a program for appointment of registration agents to issue registrations that do not involve excise tax and registrations for which the excise tax has already been paid.

It allows the Secretary of State to hold certain driver's license and vehicle registration records as confidential. It amends the information required on the registration application, specifying that a person's legal name be used on an application, that the year of manufacture be included and that only the initial registration application requires the signature of the owner or owner's legal representative. It permits persons to notify the Secretary of State of name and address changes by means other than by writing. It allows the issuance of official state nondriver identification cards to persons 15-17 years of age.

It allows the Secretary of State to establish a multi-year fleet registration program for registrants with 100 or more registrations. It allows an extension of a long-term trailer registration prior to the registration's expiration. It requires that a vehicle being added to a fleet with a common expiration date receive a prorated excise tax for the actual number of months in the registration.

It allows for the issuance of the Purple Heart recipient's special-award plate to the recipient's surviving spouse. It makes the addition or attachment of an unauthorized symbol or mark to a registration plate a civil violation.

It allows the State Tax Assessor to delegate certain responsibilities relating to the motor carrier fuel tax to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. It makes clear that transporter plates may be issued to auction businesses for the purpose of transporting vehicles to and from the auction site.

It makes consistent and corrects omissions in the OUI laws as amended in the First Regular Session of the 117th Legislature. It corrects an omission in the definition of habitual offender.

Part C of the enacted law does the following.

It provides for a new general issue of registration plates to begin on July 1, 1999 and be completed by December 31, 2000. It repeals language designating the lobster design as the general issue plate design on July 1, 1999 and allows the Secretary of State to purchase a specialty plate rather than produce the plate at the Maine State Prison when the demand for that plate is low. It increases the fee for reserving license plate numbers effective July 1, 1996. Effective July 1, 1996, it increases motor vehicle registration fees by \$1 to cover equipment costs and other costs associated with a new general issue license plate.

It establishes a program within the Highway Fund to receive \$1 of each registration fee to be used for expenses relating to the production and issuance of license plates. It establishes a moratorium on the issuance of new specialty license plates until July 1, 1999. It creates a task force to study the production and issuance of license plates.

Chapter 645 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 10, 1996.

LD 1676 An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the ONTP
Registration Improvement Committee

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'GARA	ONTP	

LD 1676 proposed to enact the recommendations of the Secretary of State's Registration Improvement Committee. It would have allowed the Secretary of state to appoint nongovernmental entities as registration agents and to implement a remote registration transactions program. It would have required the State Tax Assessor to certify software for the electronic calculation of motor vehicle excise tax. It would have allowed the Secretary of State and the Superintendent of Insurance to develop an alternate means of verifying motor vehicle liability insurance. It would have allowed the Secretary of State and nongovernmental registration agents to collect motor vehicle excise tax and required the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to transmit collected excise taxes to the appropriate municipality.

This bill proposed an optional multi-year fleet registration for registrants with 100 or more registrations. It proposed to require that excise tax be prorated for a vehicle added to a fleet with a common expiration date. Certain provisions of this legislation were enacted in Part B of P.L. 1995, c. 645. (see Bill Summary for LD 1639)

LD 1680 An Act Concerning Portable Scale Tolerances on the PUBLIC 517
Interstate Highway System

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'GARA	OTP-AM	H-695

LD 1680 proposed allowing vehicles traveling on the Interstate Highway System a 4% tolerance on gross and axle weight limits if the vehicle was weighed by portable scales.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-695) proposed adding a fiscal note to the bill.