

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TRANSPORTATION**

JUNE 1996

MEMBERS:

***Sen. Albert G. Stevens, Jr., Chair
Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy
Sen. Judy A. Paradis***

***Rep. Donald A. Strout, Chair
Rep. William B. O'Gara
Rep. George F. Ricker
Rep. Joseph D. Driscoll
Rep. Gerald N. Bouffard
Rep. Paul Chartrand
Rep. Harry W. Bailey
Rep. Wesley Farnum
Rep. Charles H. Heino
Rep. David A. Lindahl***

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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.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 517 allows vehicles traveling on the Interstate Highway System a 4% tolerance on gross and axle weight limits if the vehicle is weighed by portable scales. This is consistent with federal regulations.

LD 1681 **An Act Pertaining to the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority** PUBLIC 543

Sponsor(s)
O'GARA

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted
S-445

LD 1681 proposed to clarify and to correct certain provisions of the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority's enabling act.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-445) proposed to remove the language in the original bill that stated the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority's rate-making authority is not "rulemaking" and is not subject to supervision by any board, commission or agency.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 543 clarifies that the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority is an authority within the meaning of the Maine Tort Claims Act. It removes the December 31, 1995 time frame for initiation of service between Boston and Portland. It clarifies that the quorum requirements for a meeting of the authority's board of directors are calculated on the basis of the number of director positions currently occupied.

LD 1682 **An Act to Transfer the Responsibility for Air Search and Rescue from the Commissioner of Transportation to the Chief of the State Police** PUBLIC 555

Sponsor(s)
STROUT

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-740

LD 1682 proposed to transfer responsibility for air search and rescue from the Commissioner of Transportation to the Chief of the State Police.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-740) proposed allowing the air search and rescue plan developed by the Chief of State Police to determine the notification system for and to specify the role of various agencies in air search and rescue operations.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 555 transfers responsibility for air search and rescue from the Commissioner of Transportation to the Chief of the State Police and allows the plan developed by the Chief to specify the role of various agencies in air search and rescue operations.