

# 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:***

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

***Rep. Donald A. Strout, Chair  
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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 &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 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.

Sponsor(s)  
STEVENS A

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
S-454

LD 1687 submitted by the Department of Public Safety proposed several clarifications of and changes to the motor vehicle laws.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-454)** proposed a Part A to include and amend provisions in the original bill and a Part B that proposed additional clarifications and changes. The amendment also proposed adding a fiscal note to the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 584, Part A does the following:

Clarifies that a pickup truck must be registered as a truck if the combined gross weight of the pickup truck plus a towed trailer or semitrailer exceeds 6,000 pounds and that the fee schedule currently applicable to a truck tractor and semitrailer is also applicable to a truck and semitrailer. Clarifies that a truck registered for more than 6,000 pounds must have splash guards.

Corrects an error regarding inspection of a motor vehicle that was previously registered in another state. Requires vehicles to be equipped with turn signals.

Deletes references to public scales for weighing vehicles and allows a designee of the Chief of the State Police to establish weigh points.

Makes it clear that the gross vehicle and axle weight forgivenesses are not intended to increase allowable gross vehicle and axle weights. Clarifies that a Violation Summons and Complaint is not issued for minor weight violations.

Part B does the following:

Amends the definition of "law enforcement officer" to include officers and special investigators of the Bureau of Taxation.

Makes consistent the penalty provisions for traffic infractions. Clarifies the penalties that apply to a person establishing residency who violates the licensing or registration requirements of the State.

Allows a person's Maine license to be expired for 90 days before the violation becomes a Class E crime.

Allows a law enforcement officer to use video equipment in a motor vehicle for law enforcement purposes.

Corrects an ambiguity in the penalty for speeding on the Maine Turnpike or the Interstate Highway System.

Exempts operators of all-terrain vehicles from the licensing requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A unless the ATV is registered for highway use.