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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Staff:
Jill Ippoliti, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670

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:

CARRIED OVER .... Bill carried over to Second Session
CON RES XXX .... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE .... Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES .... House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT .... Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY .... Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT .... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT .... Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT .... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
INDEF PP .... Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP .... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
P&S XXX .... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX .... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX .... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED .... Not signed by Governor within 10 days
VETO SUSTAINED .... Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

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.

LD 1815   **An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority**   P & S 73
Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Fiscal Year
Ending December 31, 1997

Sponsor(s)   Committee Report   Amendments Adopted
                          OTP-AM   H-846

LD 1815 proposed allocations from gross revenues of the Maine Turnpike Authority for the authority's fiscal year ending December 31, 1997.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-846) proposed providing supplementary information related to the Maine Turnpike Authority's 1997 budget and adds a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 73 makes allocations from gross revenues of the Maine Turnpike Authority for the authority's fiscal year ending December 31, 1997. It provides supplemental information on capital expenditures and debt service on bonds.

LD 1826   **An Act to Allow a Change in the Speed Limit on Certain**   ONTP
Highways

Sponsor(s)   Committee Report   Amendments Adopted
O'DEA   ONTP

LD 1826 proposed repealing the maximum speed limits in statue of 65 m.p.h. on the interstate and other divided controlled-access highways and 60 m.p.h. on other highways. The bill proposed requiring a person to operate a vehicle at a reasonable and prudent speed. The bill proposed allowing the Commissioner of Transportation, with the approval of the Chief of the State Police, to impose a maximum speed limit in those areas determined dangerous based upon an engineering and traffic investigation.

LD 1829   **Resolve, to Name a Portion of Highway in Millinocket in**   RESOLVE   73
Honor of Prisoners of War and Those Designated as Missing   EMERGENCY
in Action and to Name Portions of Roads That Follow the
St. George River

Sponsor(s)   Committee Report   Amendments Adopted
CLARK   OTP-AM   H-788
STEVENS A   H-851

LD 1829 proposed designating part of Route 157 in Millinocket as a "POW-MIA Highway."

Committee Amendment "A" (H-788) proposed clarifying that plaques designating this portion of highway as a "POW-MIA Highway" will be designed and created by the local Marine Corps League.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-851) proposed changing the title of the bill and adds a section to the resolve to designate the route from the Town of Port Clyde to the Town of Montville as the "Georges River Scenic Byway."

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1995, chapter 73 designates a portion of Route 157 in Millinocket as a POW-MIA Highway and names a specified route from Montville to Port Clyde as the Georges River Scenic Byway.

Chapter 73 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 3, 1996

LD 1830   **An Act to Make Supplemental Allocations from the Highway**   P & S 83
Fund, Allocations from Other Funds and a General Fund   EMERGENCY
Appropriation and to Amend Certain Transportation Laws

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
STROUT	OTP-AM	H-848

LD 1830 proposed supplemental allocations from the Highway Fund and other special revenue funds and proposed authorizing the unencumbered balance in the Highway Fund salary plan account from fiscal year 1994-95 to lapse to the Highway Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-848) proposed directing the Department of Transportation to develop a plan for the transition of responsibilities for operation of the Augusta State Airport to the City of Augusta. It also proposed a General Fund appropriation and a Highway Fund allocation to the State Police to fund the addition of a DNA wing to the state crime lab and proposed adding a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 83, Part A makes supplemental allocations from the Highway Fund, the Federal Expenditure Fund and the Other Special Revenue funds. Part B authorizes the unencumbered balance in the Highway Fund salary plan account from fiscal year 1994-95 to lapse to the Highway Fund. Part C directs the Department of Transportation to develop a plan for the transition of responsibilities for operation of the Augusta State Airport to the City of Augusta. Part D provides a General Fund appropriation and a Highway Fund allocation to the State Police to fund the addition of a DNA wing to the state crime lab.

Chapter 83 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 11, 1996

LD 1836   **An Act Requiring Qualified Investigation of Certain**   ONTP
Truck-related and Bus-related Fatalities

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
LEMKE	ONTP	

LD 1836 proposed to require that investigators from the Maine State Police accident reconstruction program and the commercial vehicle enforcement unit investigate fatal accidents involving a truck that weighs 10,000 pounds or more or a bus. It proposed to require that a