

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
AND
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

MAY 1998

MEMBERS:

Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr., Chair

Sen. William B. O'Gara

Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell

Rep. Edward J. Povich, Chair

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Rep. Julie Ann O'Brien

Rep. James H. Tobin, Jr.

Staff:

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 1998**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

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:

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 IN CONCURRENCE.....One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY.....Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....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
OTP ND..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
OTP ND/NT..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED.....Bill held by Governor
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 June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL B JONES SL	ONTP	

LD 1667 proposed to set out the criteria and procedures for involuntary medication of mentally ill persons residing in Department of Corrections facilities. The proposed criteria and procedures conform with the requirements set out by the United States Supreme Court in Washington v. Harper, 494 U.S. 210 (1990).

LD 1719 **An Act Concerning Firearm Purchase Background Checks** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HALL	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1719 proposed to make a background check mandatory, pursuant to the federal Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, before a permit to carry a concealed weapon may be issued. The bill also proposed to exempt a person from the "Brady" law if that person had a concealed weapon permit issued within the past 5 years and at that time submitted to a background check.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-516) replaced the bill and was the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice. The amendment proposed to do the following:

1. Make the Chief of the State Police the sole issuing authority for permits to carry concealed firearms;
2. Clarify the requirements and criteria an applicant must satisfy to obtain a permit to carry concealed firearms;
3. Specify crimes and penalties regarding the misuse of concealed firearms and permits to carry concealed firearms;
4. Extend the time a permit is valid from 4 years to 5 years and set up fee schedules for resident and nonresident permit holders;
5. Make Maine a "Brady Alternative State" by exempting holders of concealed weapons permits from further background checks to purchase firearms; and
6. Add an allocation section and a fiscal note. (Not adopted)