

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
LEGAL AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

MAY 1998

MEMBERS:

Sen. Beverly C. Daggett, Chair

Sen. Richard J. Carey

Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr.

Rep. John L. Tuttle, Jr.

Rep. Albert P. Gamache

Rep. Nancy L. Chizmar

Rep. Charles D. Fisher

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Rep. Janice E. Labrecque

Rep. Joseph H. Bigl

Rep. Duane J. Belanger

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>
BENNETT	ONTP	

LD 2016 proposed to allow an agency liquor store to exchange inventory with a state liquor store.

LD 2028 **An Act to Clarify the Authority of the Chief of the Bureau of Liquor Enforcement to Conduct Appeal Hearings** **PUBLIC 571**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAGGETT	OTP	

LD 2028 proposed to allow the Chief of the Bureau of Liquor Enforcement to conduct hearings or appoint a hearings officer to conduct appeal hearing pertaining to licensing decisions made by municipal officers.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 571 provides that the Chief of the Bureau of Liquor Enforcement may conduct hearings or appoint a hearings officer to conduct appeal hearings pertaining to licensing decisions made by municipal officers.

LD 2046 **An Act to Improve Voter Participation** **DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TESSIER	OTP MAJ	
DAGGETT	ONTP MIN	

LD 2046 proposed to amend the election laws by making it easier for a person to vote by absentee ballot. The bill would allow any voter to vote by absentee ballot at any election. The bill would further allow a voter whose physical incapacity prevents the voter from going to the polls, to obtain an absentee ballot for all elections during a calendar year, after submission of a properly completed application. The bill also allows municipalities to conduct elections by mail for municipal officers or a municipal referendum