

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

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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>
KERR	OTP-AM	H-981 S-583 DAGGETT

LD 2169 proposed to change the law pertaining to harness racing, focusing on the hiring of race meet officials and the Harness Racing Promotional Fund.

This bill would provide that a licensee may hire race meet officials that are licensed by the commission. Licensees would only be authorized to fire an official with the consent of the commission. This bill proposed to remove the Harness Racing Promotional fund from the list of recipients of race track's commission. It would require that the portion of the fund - what is left over after administrative costs and not including money raised by the board - be paid to the licensees as reimbursement for promotional expenses. The bill proposed to repeal the Harness Racing Promotional Board effective July 1, 1999.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-981) proposed to strike the entire bill, replacing it with provisions for hiring and firing race track officials and a requirement that the Harness Racing Promotional Board report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over matters of harness racing.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-583) proposed to provide that the State Harness Racing Commission may impose conditions on a license for an off-track betting facility if those conditions are requested both by the applicant and by the municipality in which the off-track betting facility is to be located.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 735 establishes provisions for hiring race track officials. Licensees may only hire officials licensed by the State Harness Racing Commission and may not terminate employees without consent of the commission. This law outlines the membership requirements of the Harness Racing Promotional Board and requires the board to report to the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over matters of harness racing each year before the 15th of February. This law also provides that a conditional license may be issued to an off-track betting facility if those conditions are requested both by the applicant and the municipality in which the facility is to be located.

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

LD 2202 proposed to provide that persons cohabiting and acknowledging each other as husband and wife, and generally reputed to be such, for a period of at least three years and until one of them dies thereafter are deemed to have been legally married for the purpose of determining eligibility for any type of veterans' benefit.