

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LEGAL AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

JULY 1999

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees
August 1999

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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:

CARRIED OVER.....Bill carried over to Second Regular 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 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
ENACTMENT FAILED..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

LD 55

An Act to Clarify Referendum Wording

**DIED BETWEEN
BODIES**

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

LD 55 proposed to require that the wording of referenda be phrased so that an affirmative vote would be in favor of the subject or issue in question rather than in favor of the petitioner's position.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-532) proposed to clarify the bill to include referendum questions on the ballot at a municipal election. This amendment was not adopted.

LD 71

An Act Regarding Commercial Beano Halls

PUBLIC 74

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LABRECQUE DAGGETT	OTP-AM	H-126

LD 71 proposed to amend laws applicable to beano as follows.

1. It would create a commercial beano hall permit, which must be acquired by an individual, corporation, partnership or unincorporated association seeking to rent or lease a building or facilities for profit to an organization licensed to conduct beano.
2. The applicant seeking a commercial beano hall permit would be required to submit information and fingerprint cards to the Chief of the State Police for owners and the manager so a background investigation may be conducted prior to issuance of the permit. The chief would be able to deny a permit to an owner if the owner or manager has been convicted of murder or a Class A, B or C crime or a violation of the chapters in the Maine Criminal Code that cover theft, forgery, fraud or unlawful gambling.
3. A commercial beano hall permittee and the permittee's employees would be prohibited from being members of the licensee organizations that rent the hall.
4. A commercial beano hall permit would be valid for one year for a fee of \$500.
5. The Chief of the State Police would be able to adopt rules necessary for the regulation of the operation of commercial beano halls. These would be routine technical rules. The chief would be authorized to suspend or revoke a commercial beano hall permit after appropriate notice and the opportunity for a hearing.
6. Operating a commercial beano hall without a permit or in violation of the rules adopted regarding operation of the hall or beano would be considered a Class E crime.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-126) provided an exemption for agricultural fair associations from the licensing requirements applicable to commercial beano hall permittees provided the agricultural fair associations are licensed and