

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.

conducting beano or bingo games pursuant to the laws specific to that type of organization. The amendment also added an allocation section and fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 74 establishes a commercial beano hall permit for those seeking to rent or lease a building for profit to an organization licensed to conduct beano. It provides a process for application which includes submission of fingerprint cards and background investigations. It also lists circumstances under which the Chief of the State Police may deny a permit. A commercial beano hall permit is valid for one year for a fee of \$500 and stipulates that a permittee and the permittee’s employees are prohibited from being members of the licensed organizations that rent the hall. Under this law, operation of a commercial beano hall without a permit is a Class E crime. Finally, the law authorizes the Chief of the State Police to adopt rules necessary for the regulation of this act and suspend or revoke licenses after appropriate notice of hearing.

LD 87

An Act to Require All Voting Places to be Accessible

PUBLIC 252

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BAKER	ONTP MAJ	H-250
TREAT	OTP-AM MIN	H-445 BAKER S-258 DAGGETT

LD 87 proposed to require each municipality to provide at least one voting place that is accessible to persons with physical handicaps or impairments. Voters utilizing such accessible voting places would be permitted to use absentee ballots or be treated differently from other voters. This bill proposed to require such access at all voting places.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-250) proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

House Amendment "A" (H-445) required the Office of the Secretary of State and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services to review the effects of this legislation and develop cost-saving recommendations to reduce costs of the mandate for any municipality affected by this legislation.

This amendment established a deadline for municipalities to have total polling place accessibility. All polling places located in publicly owned buildings must be accessible by April 1, 2000. All other polling places, such as churches, fraternal halls and other private facilities, must be accessible by July 1, 2001 if they are to be used by the municipality as polling places under this amendment.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-258) proposed to add a mandate preamble to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 252 requires each municipality to provide at least one voting place that is accessible to persons with physical handicaps or impairments. Publicly owned polling places must be accessible by April 1, 2000 and others, such as churches and fraternal halls, must be accessible by July 1, 2001. Public Law 1999, chapter 252 also directs the Office of the Secretary of State and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of General Services to review the effects of this law and make recommendations to reduce the costs of the mandate.

LD 89 Resolve, to Study Standardized Periods of Military Service and Other Matters Related to the Award of State of Maine Veterans' Benefits RESOLVE 78 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCALEVEY CAREY	OTP-AM	H-312 S-444 MICHAUD

LD 89

This resolve proposed to establish the Commission to Study Standardized Periods of Military Service for Award of Benefits to Maine Veterans to examine ways to codify and standardize eligibility requirements for veterans' benefits based on periods of military service.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-312) In addition to changing the title of the resolve, the amendment proposes to establish the Committee to Study Standardized Periods of Military Service and Other Matters Related to the Award of State of Maine Veterans' Benefits, alters the membership of the committee, changes the process of selecting cochairs and specifically adds the veterans' property tax exemption, veterans' burial eligibility and peacetime veterans' eligibility for benefits to the issues that are to be examined by the committee. It also would require the committee to hold public hearings to gather public comment on veterans' benefit issues.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-518) This amendment proposed to expand the membership of the Committee to Study Periods of Military Service and Other Matters Related to the Award of State of Maine Veterans' Benefits to include one member from each of five major veterans organizations.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-444) This amendment proposed to make technical corrections to the resolve to make it consistent with the study guidelines by allowing the committee to seek an extension of its reporting deadline.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 78 establishes the Commission to Study Periods of Military Service and Other Matters Related to the Award of State of Maine Veterans' Benefits. Chapter 78 was passed as an emergency measure effective June 17, 1999.

LD 91 An Act to Eliminate the Minimum Quota Requirement for a Store to Have a Lottery Machine DIED BETWEEN BODIES

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