

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

Staff:

*Danielle D. Fox, Legislative Analyst
Christopher J. Spruce, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*

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Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

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.

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	

LD 91 proposed to prohibit the Tri-State Lotto Commission from charging sales agents the balance of the difference between actual sales from an agents machine and the quota set by the commission if the sales agents do not meet the quota.

LD 122 **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Amend the Timing of Elections Following the Submission of a Petition for People's Veto** **CON RES 1**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LONGLEY		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-24
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LD 122 proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to require that a people's veto be submitted to the people either at a regular statewide or general election, whichever comes first, not less than 60 days after the Governor's proclamation that the petition will be submitted to the voters. This resolution eliminates language in the constitution that authorizes the Governor to call a special election for purposes of submitting a petition for a people's veto to the voters.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-24) This amendment adds a fiscal note to the resolution.

Enacted law summary

Constitutional Resolution 1999, chapter 1 requires that a people's veto be submitted to the people either at a regular statewide election or a general election, whichever comes first, no less than 60 days after the Governor's proclamation that the people's veto will be put before the voters of the State. Under this resolution, the Governor is no longer authorized to call a special election for the purposes of a people's veto vote.

LD 131 **An Act to Amend the Beano and Games of Chance Statutes** **PUBLIC 63**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAGGETT TUTTLE		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-25
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LD 131 proposed to amend the Beano and games of chance statutes by:

1. Making a technical change by deleting unnecessary language.
2. Amending the statute that permits licensing of Beano games to make it clear that only Maine organizations may be licensed.
3. Amending the games of chance disposition of funds reporting requirements to require monthly reports for annual licensees rather than annual reports.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Public Safety.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-25) changed the number of days by which a disposition of funds report is due from a Beano licensee from six days to 10 business days.

Enacted law summary