

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.

LD 295

An Act Regarding Lobbying by Government Agencies and Organizations That Receive Public Funds

ONTP

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

LD 295 proposed to limit lobbyists representing governmental departments and agencies to no more than eight hours of lobbying per month. The bill also proposed to require that before a lobbyist testifies to a legislative committee, the lobbyist disclose to the committee the amount of any compensation from a governmental source received by the lobbyist or the lobbyist's employer for the past year.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-190), which was not adopted, proposed to remove the eight hour restriction from the original bill and add a definition of "governmental source."

LD 313

An Act to Allow Honorably Discharged Veterans to Be Buried in the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery

PUBLIC 517

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

LD 313 proposed to allow any honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces to be buried in the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 517 provides that any honorably discharged veteran of the United States Armed Forces may be buried in the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery.

LD 314

An Act to Restrict Circulators of Initiated Petitions from Being within 250 Feet of Voting Places

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KIEFFER	OTP-AM A ONTP B OTP-AM C	

LD 314 proposed to prohibit the circulator of a direct initiative petition from presenting any such petition and requesting voter signatures in the polling place or within 250 feet of the entrance to the voting place.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-42), which was not adopted, proposed to change the bill and its title by referring to petitions instead of initiated petitions specifically.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-43), which was not adopted, proposed to strike the bill and replace the title. The amended bill would prohibit the circulation of petitions within the voting place.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-106), which was not adopted, proposed to extend the restriction on certain persons being within 250 feet of a voting place to candidates for an election.

LD 335 An Act to Require Reimbursement to Municipalities for the Cost of State Special Elections ONTP

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

LD 335 proposed to require the State to reimburse municipalities for expenses incurred as a result of a statewide special election and to require that all designated polling places in a voting district be open for all elections.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-310), which was not adopted, proposed to strike two provisions of the original bill that prohibited consolidation of voting districts and required that all polling places be open for all classes of elections. The amendment retains the provision that the State pay for a municipality's expenses from a statewide special election.

LD 346 An Act to Increase the Number of Absentee Ballots That A Person May Request ONTP

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

LD 346 proposed to allow a voter to make application to obtain absentee ballots for all elections during a calendar year.

LD 363 An Act to Reduce Operating Under the Influence by Requiring Certification of On-premise Alcohol Servers ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCALEVEY O'GARA	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 363 proposed to require all on-premise alcohol servers to complete a certified alcohol server education course. With this course, alcohol server education courses must be certified by the Commissioner of Public Safety. Instructors who teach alcohol server education courses would be required to be certified by the Bureau of Liquor Enforcement under this proposal. The bill would also have prohibited licensees who serve liquor on the premises from employing servers who have not completed a certified alcohol server education course.