

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
TRANSPORTATION

JULY 1999

**MEMBERS:**

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*Sen. Judy Paradis*

*Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy*

*Rep. Joseph M. Jabar, Sr., Chair*

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**Staff:**

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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](http://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 282**

**An Act to Allow Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection Stations to Set Their Own Fees for Inspections and to Require the Inspection of Brake Friction Material**

**ONTP**

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

LD 282 proposed that inspection stations inspect the brake friction material of a vehicle as part of the standard vehicle inspection and proposed to repeal the statutorily set inspection fees, allowing inspection stations to set their own fees.

**LD 311**

**An Act to Create a Registration Plate for Members of the Maine Snowmobile Association**

**CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 311 proposes to authorize the issuance of a special registration plate for members of the Maine Snowmobile Association.

**LD 319**

**An Act to Require Commercial Vehicle Operators Involved in Fatal Motor Vehicle Accidents to Submit to Drug Testing**

**CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CASSIDY WHEELER G		

LD 319 proposes to require drug testing of commercial vehicle operators involved in fatal or potentially fatal motor vehicle accidents. This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Public Safety.

**LD 320**

**An Act to Amend the Law regarding Reportable Motor Vehicle Accidents**

**PUBLIC 61**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS P CROSS	OTP MAJ ONTP MIN	

LD 320 proposed to increase from \$500 to \$1,000 the monetary amount of property damage for which a motor vehicle accident must be reported.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 61, increases from \$500 to \$1,000 the monetary amount of property damage for which a motor vehicle accident must be reported.

**LD 321**                      **An Act to Create a License Plate for Veterans Who Served in Iwo Jima, CARRIED OVER Normandy or Desert Storm**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HARRIMAN BUCK		

LD 321 proposes to create 3 additional special license plates for veterans who served at the battles of Iwo Jima and Normandy in World War II and in Operation Desert Storm in 1991. As with Purple Heart license plates, a one-time fee of \$10 will be charged to offset additional costs.

**LD 323**                      **An Act to Allow a Person to Erect One Advertising Sign**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 323 proposed that a person or business employing fewer than 20 persons be allowed to place a sign on private property within one mile of the business.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-98)** proposed to authorize towns to issue permits for off-site business advertising signs. The amendment proposed to limit each business to one sign. The amendment also proposed to prohibit towns from permitting signs larger than 16 square feet or that are illuminated or changeable signs, require that signs be placed only on private land in the town granting the permits and only with the permission of the landowner, allow no more than one permitted sign erected on any one parcel of land and to allow the towns to place other limitations on such signs, such as charging a fee for the permit. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 337**                      **An Act to Allow Police Employees to Issue Temporary Permits to Operate Unregistered and Uninspected Vehicles**                      **PUBLIC 41**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHEELER E KIEFFER	OTP-AM	H-42

LD 337 proposed to add permit-certified police dispatchers to the list of people authorized to issue temporary permits allowing operation of uninspected vehicles to an inspection station.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-42)** proposed to replace the original bill and change its title. The amendment proposed to allow an employee of a police or sheriff's department designated by the chief law enforcement officer of the department to issue a permit to tow an unregistered motor vehicle or to operate an uninspected motor vehicle to an inspection station for inspection.

***Enacted law summary***