

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:

Sen. William B. O'Gara, Chair

Sen. Judy Paradis

Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy

Rep. Joseph M. Jabar, Sr., Chair

Rep. Gerald N. Bouffard

Rep. Charles D. Fisher

Rep. Gary J. Wheeler

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Rep. Edgar Wheeler

Rep. Ronald F. Collins

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).

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.

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

Public Law 1999, chapter 41, allows 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.

LD 351

An Act to Include Marine Products on Roadside Signs

**DIED BETWEEN
BODIES**

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

LD 351 proposed to allow sellers of marine products to post seasonal roadside signs.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-200) proposed to limit the eligibility for roadside signs advertising marine products to businesses that produce and sell the marine products on their premises and to allow those businesses to erect only signs that advertise marine products sold for human consumption. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-130) proposed to allow a seller to erect signs advertising products produced or sold on the seller's premises, as in the original bill. This amendment also proposed to restrict a seller to erecting signs as proposed in the bill or using official business directional signs, but not both.

LD 362

An Act to Require Written Explanation from the Department of Transportation When a Municipal Request to Change a Speed Limit is Denied

PUBLIC 160

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHEELER G PENDLETON	OTP-AM	H-236

LD 362 proposed to transfer authority for setting speed limits in municipalities from the Department of Transportation to municipalities, except for the interstate highway system or the Maine Turnpike. The bill also proposed to allow municipalities to establish passing and no-passing zones.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-236) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to require the Department of Transportation to explain in writing why a municipal request to change a speed limit was denied by the department and requires the department to offer to meet with the municipal officials in that municipality to explain the reasons for that denial. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 160, requires the Department of Transportation to explain in writing why a municipal request to change a speed limit was denied by the department and requires the department to offer to meet with the municipal officials in that municipality to explain the reasons for that denial.