

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

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Rep. Robert A. Cameron

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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.

LD 556**An Act Concerning Rules of the Road Governing Traffic Rotaries****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'BRIEN L DAGGETT	ONTP	

LD 556 proposed that a motorist who is leaving a traffic circle or rotary intersection to be in the right lane 2 exits prior to leaving the circle.

LD 590**An Act to Remove Tolls from Roads North of Portland****ONTP**

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

LD 590 proposed to prohibit the Maine Turnpike Authority from charging or collecting tolls for use of the turnpike from Exit 9 to the northern terminus of the turnpike.

LD 606**Resolve, Naming the East-West Highway the Ronald Reagan International Highway****ONTP**

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

LD 606 proposes to name the proposed east-west highway the Ronald Reagan International Highway.

LD 619**An Act to Exempt the East-west Highway and Interstate 95 North of Houlton from the Sensible Transportation Policy Act****ONTP**

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

LD 619 proposed to exempt Interstate 95 north of Houlton and the East-west Highway from participating in the Sensible Transportation Policy Act.

LD 647**An Act to Eliminate Tolls from the Maine Turnpike, Abolish the Turnpike Authority and Adjust Taxes on Automotive Fuel****ONTP**

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

LD 647 proposed to merge the Maine Turnpike Authority into the Maine Department of Transportation, eliminate tolls on the Maine Turnpike effective October 1, 2002, require the State to issue its own general obligation highway bonds to fund the recall and payment of the balances due on all outstanding Maine Turnpike bonds and fund the new highway bonds by increasing the gas tax in York, Cumberland, Androscoggin and Kennebec Counties by five cents per gallon

and in all other counties by four cents per gallon. The bill also proposed that the one cent differential be in place for 10 years until the new bonds are paid and that the bill be submitted to referendum in June 2000, with the provisions to take effect October 1, 2002.

LD 655 **An Act to Increase the Penalty for Failure to Yield the Right-of-way to a Visually Impaired Pedestrian** **PUBLIC 92**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAGGETT FULLER	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-51
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LD 655 proposed to make failure to yield the right-of-way to a visually impaired person a specific traffic infraction and to double the fine for that infraction.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-51) proposed to clarify the infraction of failure to yield the right-of-way to a visually impaired pedestrian and to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 92, makes failure to yield the right-of-way to a visually impaired person a specific traffic infraction and doubles the fine for that infraction.

LD 657 **An Act to Require the Revocation of the Registration of an Uninsured Motor Vehicle** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MACKINNON O'NEIL	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 657 proposed to require a law enforcement officer to summons a motor vehicle owner who can not provide evidence of insurance and to send a copy of the summons to the Secretary of State and to allow the State to suspend the motor vehicle's registration if the motor vehicle owner fails to provide proof of insurance to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles by the end of the next business day after the summons.

LD 685 **An Act to Withhold Work-restricted Licenses from Habitual Offenders Newly Convicted of Operating under the Influence or Who are not in Treatment Program** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MARTIN	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 685 proposed to allow a person whose license has been revoked under the habitual offender statutes to be eligible for a work-restricted license as long as the new offense is not operating under the influence and the person is participating actively in a substance abuse treatment program.