

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY**

**JULY 1999**

**MEMBERS:**

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*Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat*

*Sen. John W. Benoit*

*Rep. Richard H. Thompson, Chair*

*Rep. Thomas Bull*

*Rep. Charles C. Laverdiere*

*Rep. Patricia T. Jacobs*

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*Rep. Debra D. Plowman*

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*Rep. G. Paul Waterhouse*

*Rep. William J. Schneider*

*Rep. Donna M. Loring*

**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 860****An Act to Limit the Adverse Possession Laws****ONTP**

|                               |                                 |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u><br>SKOGLUND | <u>Committee Report</u><br>ONTP | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|

LD 860 proposed to limit adverse possession in certain instances as a method by which to gain title to property by allowing it only when necessary to gain access to landlocked property or when the person claiming adverse possession builds a building that mistakenly lies across the boundary line.

**LD 874****An Act to Remove Certain Records Concerning Minors From the Definition of "Public Records"****PUBLIC 96**

|                                      |                                   |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u><br>AMERO<br>MARVIN | <u>Committee Report</u><br>OTP-AM | <u>Amendments Adopted</u><br>S-39 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

LD 874 proposed to amend the Freedom of Access laws to remove certain records concerning minors from the definition of "public records." The bill proposed to remove personally identifying information concerning minors that a municipality collects or maintains in providing educational or recreational programs or services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-39)** proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to allow certain information regarding minors to be withheld from public disclosure if the municipality that holds the information has enacted an ordinance specifying the circumstances under which the information will be withheld from disclosure to a person or the public in general.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 96 allows certain information regarding minors to be withheld from public disclosure if the municipality that holds the information has enacted an ordinance specifying the circumstances under which the information will be withheld from disclosure to a person or the public in general.

**LD 889****An Act to Increase Public Awareness in Child Protection Cases****ONTP**

|                            |                                 |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u><br>QUINT | <u>Committee Report</u><br>ONTP | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|

LD 889 proposed to allow a guardian ad litem in a child protection case to disclose some details of the case with the consent of the Commissioner of Human Services and the Attorney General.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Human Services.