

# 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](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 873****An Act to Clarify Municipal Responsibility for the Maintenance of Veterans' Gravesites****CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE BERRY R		

LD 873, which was carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to update and to amend municipal responsibilities for veterans' grave sites, including:

1. Changing the term "soldier or sailor who served in the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps in any war" to "veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States of America";
2. Changing the liability of the municipality for failing to properly maintain veterans' grave sites from \$100 per town to \$500 per cemetery for each municipality;
3. Changing the term "May 30th" for the decoration of veterans' graves to "the day Memorial Day is observed"; and
4. Requiring municipalities to follow the National Flag Code in the handling and display of American flags.

**LD 885****An Act to Decrease the Time by Which Rent Is Considered Late****INDEF PP**

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

LD 885 proposed to decrease the time by which rent is considered late from 15 days to eight days.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-285)**, which was not adopted, proposed to reduce the time by which rent is considered late for purposes of the imposition of a late fee to seven days.

**LD 898****An Act to Require Proof of Liquor Liability Insurance Upon Demand by a Municipality****ONTP**

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

LD 898 proposed to authorize municipalities and unincorporated places to require, from an applicant for a liquor license, proof of liquor liability insurance with minimum coverage of \$50,000 before approval of an application for a liquor license would be granted. The insurance policy must have included a provision that requires the insurer to notify the municipality or unincorporated place of a lapse in coverage under this bill. Any lapse in coverage would have resulted in automatic revocation of a liquor license. If the licensee could show proof of new insurance or give good cause as to the reason for the lapse, the revocation would be withdrawn.