

# 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. David A. Lindahl*

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*Rep. Robert A. Cameron*

*Rep. Edgar Wheeler*

*Rep. Ronald F. Collins*

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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 884**

**An Act to Increase Sanctions for Passing School Buses that Have Red Lights Flashing**

**ONTP**

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

LD 884 proposed to amend the penalties for illegally passing a school bus that is stopped and has its red lights flashing by adding a mandatory 30-day license suspension for a first offense, allowing a first-time offender the option of serving 80 hours of community service to the school district in lieu of the license suspension, increasing the mandatory license suspension from 30 to 90 days for a second offense and decreasing the length of time from three years to two years after a first offense for which a second offense will carry a mandatory 90-day license suspension.

**LD 896**

**An Act to Require Identification for Hearing Impaired Persons**

**ONTP**

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

LD 896 proposed that the Secretary of State indicate a hearing impairment on a driver's license or state nondriver identification card and to issue a placard indicating that a driver is hearing impaired if the hearing-impaired person provides the Secretary of State with medical documentation of the impairment.

**LD 902**

**An Act to Limit Load Weights on State Roads**

**ONTP**

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

LD 902 proposed to limit to 80,000 pounds the gross vehicle weight of vehicles traveling on roads in Maine.

**LD 929**

**An Act to Require Reflective Material or Lamps on the Front of Utility Trailers**

**PUBLIC 108**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STANLEY	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-148

LD 929 proposed to require that a snowmobile trailer or a utility trailer be equipped with orange reflectors on both front sides if the trailer is wider than the vehicle towing the trailer.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-148)**, the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, proposed to replace the bill and change its title.

The amendment proposed to require that reflective material or lamps visible to oncoming traffic be located on the front corners of trailers that are wider than the vehicle towing the trailer. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 108, requires that reflective material or lamps visible to oncoming traffic be located on the front corners of trailers that are wider than the vehicle towing the trailer. Shortly after being chaptered, this law was further amended to apply to both trailers and semitrailers.

**LD 938**

**An Act to Allow the Department of Transportation to Designate No-passing Zones Upon Request From a Municipality**

**PUBLIC 171**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHEELER G KONTOS	OTP-AM	H-256

LD 938 proposed to prohibit a person from crossing a solid no-passing line painted in the center of a road except in an emergency.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-256)** proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to allow a municipality to request that the Department of Transportation designate segments of two-lane roads in primarily residential areas of the municipality as no-passing zones and to require that the department approve such requests unless the commissioner determines that granting the request will unreasonably restrict the efficient flow of traffic or result in a threat to public safety in that location. The amendment proposed that all decisions of the commissioner must be in writing and must be made within 30 days after receiving a request.

The amendment proposed that if a request is approved, the Department of Transportation must stripe the road with double, solid, yellow center lines and post the road as no-passing. The municipality would be required to reimburse the department for all posting costs. Passing in a no-passing zone designated by the commissioner is a traffic infraction.

The amendment proposed that if a municipal request is denied, the Department of Transportation is required, at the request of the municipality, to hold a public hearing in the municipality. A final decision of the department would be required within 30 days after the hearing is held.

The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 171, enacts as law the provision proposed in Committee Amendment "A".

**LD 951**

**An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws**

**PUBLIC 183**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PARADIS	OTP-AM	S-107

LD 951 proposed several changes to the motor vehicle laws. This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Public Safety.