

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).

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 1015**Resolve, to Implement the Recommendations of the Select Commission to Study the Opening of a Discount State Liquor Store in Fort Kent****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1015 proposed to implement the recommendations of the Joint Select Commission to Study the Opening of a Discount State Liquor Store in Fort Kent. The study recommends that the State not open a discount store in Fort Kent. The select commission also recommends that the decision to open the discount store in Calais be reevaluated. This resolve proposed to direct the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to provide information to the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs on two issues relating to liquor sales: First, information relevant to determining whether to continue operating the discount state liquor store in Calais and secondly, information on possible changes in liquor pricing to enable agency liquor stores to increase their profits.

LD 1035**An Act to Require Maine's Off-track Betting Facilities to Promote Maine Racing CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRUNO	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1035, which was carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to require off-track betting facilities to display any Maine race on one-third of their monitors, unless more than one Maine track is broadcasting its races, in which case one-half of each off-track betting facility's monitors would have to be dedicated to the in-state races.

LD 1036**An Act to Repeal Term Limits for Legislators and Constitutional Officers****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HATCH	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1036 proposed to repeal the law which imposes term limits on Legislators, the Secretary of State, the State Treasurer, the Attorney General and the State Auditor. The bill would have proposed the following question to voters in a statewide referendum. "Do you favor repealing term limits for Legislators and constitutional officers?"

LD 1039**An Act to Allow Horse Racing Commencing at Noon on Sundays****PUBLIC 394**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TUTTLE	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1039 permits harness racing to begin at noon on Sunday. Current law provides that harness racing may not commence until the hour of 1 p.m.