

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LEGAL AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

JULY 2000

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of 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:

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
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT..... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP..... Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONT P..... 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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

House Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1011), which was not adopted, proposed to remove the mandate preamble from the bill and provide an appropriation from the General Fund to pay 90% of the costs of placing individual flags on the graves of all wartime veterans.

House Amendment "C" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1065), which was not adopted, proposed to remove the mandate preamble from the bill and provide an appropriation from the General Fund to pay 90% of the costs of placing individual flags on the graves of all wartime veterans located in cemeteries where a municipality had previously erected a single flagpole.

House Amendment "D" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1074), which was not adopted, proposed the same as House Amendment "C" to Committee Amendment "A".

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-665), which was not adopted, proposed to reinstate the language that allows a municipality to erect a flagpole as an alternative to placing an American flag on the graves of veterans of the Armed Forces.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 700 clarifies the law pertaining to municipalities' responsibilities for maintaining veterans' graves established before 1880. Under this law a municipality may be fined \$100 per complaint for a grave that has not been maintained. If the municipality continues to neglect the grave(s), after 2 weeks upon receiving notice, an additional \$100 fine will be imposed. Fines accumulate every 2 weeks that the grave is neglected.

Public Law 1999, chapter 700 also provides that a municipality may sue for access to graves that they are required to maintain which are on private land unless the owner agrees to maintain the grave(s) to statutory standards.

The law also removes a provision which provided that municipal cemeteries had the option to erect a single flagpole in the cemetery to recognize veterans on Memorial Day. With that option gone, municipal cemeteries must place individual flags on each veteran's grave.

LD 1035

An Act to Require Maine's Off-track Betting Facilities to Promote Maine Racing

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
BRUNO

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1035 proposed to require off-track betting facilities to display races from a Maine racetrack on 1/3 of their monitors. If more than one Maine racetrack broadcasts its races than the bill proposed to require the off-track betting facility to dedicate one-half of its monitors to Maine races.