

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

Staff:

*Danielle D. Fox, Legislative Analyst
Christopher J. Spruce, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*

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Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

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>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
		ONTP		

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>		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRUNO				

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>		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HATCH		ONTP		

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>		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE		OTP-AM		

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.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-526) proposed to transfer approval for appointments and reporting requirements for the Maine State Harness Racing Commission from the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agricultural matters to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over harness racing.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-528) was presented on behalf of the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading to add the preamble necessitated by the change in confirmation procedures proposed by Committee Amendment "A."

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 394 changes current law which provides that harness racing may not commence until 1 p.m. on Sunday. Public Law 1999, chapter 394 extends a Sunday raceday by one hour, permitting racing to commence at noon.

LD 1042 **An Act to Require Liability Insurance for Sellers of Liquor Consumed on the Premises** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> THOMPSON	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1042 proposed to require all licensees serving liquor for on-premise consumption to obtain at least \$250,000 of liquor liability insurance. Failure to maintain that insurance would result in suspension or revocation of license under this bill.

LD 1043 **An Act to Clarify the Guidelines for the Allocation of Tri-state Lottery Machines** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> NASS	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1043 proposed to amend the factors considered by the Tri-state Lotto Commission when issuing a license to include seasonal and cross-border potential sales. It proposed to require that the commission provide a detailed report to an applicant who is denied a license, including proof that all considerations were properly evaluated and specifying the reason for the denial.

LD 1051 **An Act to Apportion State Lottery Funds to Pay for Quality Early Care and Education** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LONGLEY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP A OTP-AM B OTP-AM C	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1051 proposed to require that 10% of the State's share of all proceeds deposited into the State Lottery Fund be appropriated to the Department of Human Services to be used for Head Start and child care services.