

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
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 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

LD 1149

An Act to Require the Municipal Clerk to Attend at Least One Training Session that is Approved by the Secretary of State Every 2 Years Regarding the Conduct of Elections

ONTP

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

LD 1149 proposed to require that each municipal clerk attend a training session that is approved by the Secretary of State at least once every 2 years regarding the conduct of elections.

LD 1201

An Act to Require Licensing Fees of Tobacco Products Manufacturers

ONTP

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

LD 1201 proposed to require tobacco products manufacturers who distribute for sale or sell tobacco products directly in the State to pay an annual licensing fee to the State of \$10,000 beginning January 1, 2000. The bill would not have applied to dealers and distributors licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, chapter 703 or chapter 704 and retailers licensed under Title 22, chapter 262-A.

LD 1257

Resolve, Directing the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to Adopt Rules Regulating Push Polling

RESOLVE 133

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BENNETT GLYNN	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-1185 TRAHAN

LD 1257 proposed to require a person conducting a push poll by telephone for any candidate for office to disclose the name and address of the organization conducting the push poll, the name and address of the person or organization underwriting the push poll and the name of the candidate and the office for which the candidate is running if the poll is authorized by the candidate. As proposed, "Push poll" would mean an interview with a voter that is designed to influence the voter's decision with a series of questions that appear to be an objective opinion poll concerning an issue but that are worded to suggest answers that support a certain position concerning the issue.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-315), which was not adopted, proposed to replace the original bill. It would have defined "push poll" and required anyone conducting push polling by telephone to disclose who financed the poll and, state if the poll is authorized by a candidate, and identify that candidate's name and the office sought by the candidate. Under this amendment, any violation of this provision would be a Class E crime. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.