

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:

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Sen. Judy Paradis

Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy

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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 1179**An Act to Amend Weight Requirement Inequalities Between Hauling Wood Products and Hauling Other Products****CARRIED OVER**Sponsor(s)
KASPRZAKCommittee ReportAmendments Adopted

LD 1179 proposes to amend the weight tolerance for certain trucks by allowing a maximum load of 64,000 pounds on the tri-axle unit of a 4-axle single-unit vehicle that carries certain materials. These materials include building materials that absorb moisture during delivery originating and terminating within the State, bark, sawdust, firewood, sawed lumber, dimension lumber, pulpwood, wood chips, logs, soil, unconsolidated rock material including limestone, bolts, farm produce, road salt, manufacturer's concrete products, solid waste or incinerator ash, highway construction materials, products requiring refrigeration and raw ore when transported from a mine or quarry to a place of processing. Under current law, the tolerance applies only to the tri-axle unit of a 4-axle single-unit vehicle that carries forest products.

LD 1184**An Act to Amend the Inspection Process for Motor Vehicles That Fail Inspection****ONTP**Sponsor(s)
MCKENNEYCommittee Report
ONTPAmendments Adopted

LD 1184 proposed to require that the owner of a motor vehicle that failed an inspection test be given a defect report and that a failure sticker be placed on the vehicle. The bill proposed to allow the owner one month to repair the defect that caused the vehicle to fail inspection. The bill also proposed to allow the inspection station to receive a refund for a partially used sheet of inspection stickers.

LD 1207**An Act to Amend the Local Highway Laws****PUBLIC 337**Sponsor(s)
HARRIMANCommittee Report
OTP-AMAmendments Adopted
H-573 JABAR
S-169

LD 1207 proposed to provide towns with the same authority that cities have to regulate excavations of local highways. The term "municipal officers" is substituted for "city government" to include different forms of local government. Additionally, the bill proposed to include the reasonable cost of municipal inspections and of the reduced life of the roadway among the costs that may be assessed. The bill clarifies that municipalities have the right to protect local highways and this right may not be preempted by other laws governing the regulation of utilities. The bill adds a definition of the term "base material."

Committee Amendment "A" (S-169) proposed to remove the language in the bill allowing municipalities to charge a fee to cover the reduced life of a road resulting from a road cut. The amendment also proposed to add language allowing municipalities to require that a cut into a road within the first 5 years after the road is resurfaced be repaved for a distance at least 20 feet in from the furthest edges of the cut across the entire width of the road to minimize construction joints.

The amendment also proposed to allow municipalities to enter into agreements requiring the utility or other entity that creates the cut to repave the cut.