

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY**

**JULY 2000**

***MEMBERS:***

***Sen. Susan W. Longley, Chair***

***Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat***

***Sen. John W. Benoit***

***Rep. Richard H. Thompson, Chair***

***Rep. Thomas Bull***

***Rep. Charles C. LaVerdiere***

***Rep. Patricia T. Jacobs***

***Rep. Charles E. Mitchell***

***Rep. William S. Norbert***

***Rep. Debra D. Plowman***

***Rep. David R. Madore***

***Rep. G. Paul Waterhouse***

***Rep. William J. Schneider***

***Rep. Donna M. Loring***

***Staff:***

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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](http://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 1010

**An Act Regarding the Family Court**

ONTP

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

LD 1010 proposed to give the family case management officer in the Family Division of the District Court authority to hear contested family cases and enter final orders if both parties agree.

**LD 1251**

**An Act to Change the Reimbursement Rate for Law Enforcement Personnel Who Testify in Court**

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LEMONT DAVIS P	OTP-AM	

LD 1251 proposed to increase the reimbursement fee paid to a municipality by the court for each day a law enforcement officer is physically present for a scheduled trial in District Court from \$25 a day to \$50 a day. The substance of LD 1251 was enacted as Part CCCC of the Supplemental Budget Bill, Public Law 1999 chapter 731.

LD 1294

**An Act to Provide for a Limited Waiver of Immunity**

PUBLIC 572

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POWERS	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-815

LD 1294 proposed to waive a portion of charitable immunity so that directors, officers and volunteers of charitable organizations may be sued and held liable for harm they cause while operating vehicles, vessels or aircraft, to the extent of their insurance coverage. The bill also proposed to void, as contrary to public policy, any provision in an insurance policy that attempts to limit or exclude coverage for claims authorized by the bill.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-815)**, the majority report, proposed to exclude umbrella insurance coverage from the limit of recovery in the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 572 waives immunity from tort liability for directors, officers or volunteers of charitable organizations who cause harm while operating vehicles, vessels or aircraft. Damages against such a person may not exceed the amount of insurance coverage held by that person to cover such claims. The bill also voids, as contrary to public policy, any provision in an insurance policy that attempts to limit or exclude coverage for claims that are authorized by this law.