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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Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr.

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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 1438   An Act to Allow for Expeditious Improvements to Commercial   **PUBLIC 622**
             Tracks

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DAGGETT	OTP-AM	S-541

LD 1438 proposed to allow the Harness Racing Commission to make interim payments to persons licensed to conduct pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing from the fund into which is deposited a portion of the revenue credited to the General Fund that is attributable to total wagers in excess of $35,000,000. It also allows commercial tracks to accumulate the balance in their share of the fund from year to year, thereby allowing tracks to fund large capital improvements.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-541) clarifies the original bill by specifying that a commercial track may request reimbursements for improvements made during prior years beginning with the year 2000. The amendment also clarifies the definition of "improvements" to differentiate between routine repairs and maintenance and substantial enhancement to property and moveable assets.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 622 allows the Harness Racing Commission to give interim payments to commercial tracks that are licensed to conduct harness racing. The money for these payments comes from the commercial meet account which is funded by the revenue credited to the General Fund in excess of $35,000,000. The law allows commercial tracks to request reimbursements for improvements made to their facilities during prior years beginning January 1, 2000. Under this law, a track may accumulate its balance from reimbursements from year to year, allowing them to fund large capital improvements. This law also specifies that capital improvements are a substantial enhancement to property and do not include routine repairs and maintenance.

LD 1439   An Act to Ensure the Preservation of Maine's Commercial   **ONTP**
             Racetracks

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
DAGGETT	ONTP	

LD 1439 proposed to allow the Harness Racing Commission to make reimbursements to commercial racetracks for expenditures needed to enhance, preserve or restore their facilities or related assets.

LD 1504   An Act to Amend the Lobbyist Registration Fee Provisions   **PUBLIC 745**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CAREY	OTP-AM	S-582