

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:

Sen. William B. O'Gara, Chair

Sen. Judy Paradis

Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy

Rep. Joseph M. Jabar, Sr., Chair

Rep. Gerald N. Bouffard

Rep. Charles D. Fisher

Rep. Gary J. Wheeler

Rep. Laura J. Sanborn

Rep. David A. Lindahl

Rep. Christine R. Savage

Rep. Robert A. Cameron

Rep. Edgar Wheeler

Rep. Ronald F. Collins

Staff:

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Maine State Legislature
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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 1813**An Act to Ensure the Continued Operation of an Information Center in Fryeburg****INDEF PP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| COWGER FERGUSON | OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN | |

LD 1813 proposed to require the Commissioner of Transportation to continue operating the Information Center in Fryeburg, currently operated by the Maine Tourism Commission pursuant to a lease agreement, as an information center in the event that lease is terminated by either party. The department holds title to the property and the Maine Tourism Commission operates the center pursuant to a 1960 lease agreement.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-434) proposed to replace the bill and make the bill an emergency.

The amendment proposed to require the Department of Transportation and the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of Tourism and Community Development to operate a visitor information center in Fryeburg in the same manner as they operate other state visitor centers, with the Department of Transportation providing the land, infrastructure, building and structural maintenance and the Office of Tourism and Community Development providing the funding for operating expenses. The amendment proposed to allow an existing welcome center or another appropriate facility in Fryeburg to remain open under such arrangements without interruption to the visitor information services historically provided in that town by the Maine Tourism Association, Inc. This amendment proposed that this requirement only be in place until the Legislature approves a comprehensive plan for capital, maintenance and staff support for tourism centers statewide. The amendment proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1853 **An Act to Expand the Membership of the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority** **ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| GOODWIN | ONTP | |

LD 1853 proposed to add three members to Northern New England Passenger Rail, one from each of the county commissioner districts in Washington County.

LD 2002 **An Act to Repeal the Mandatory Seat Belt Law if Approved at Referendum** **ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MENDROS BENOIT | ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN | |

LD 2002 proposed a referendum question to repeal the law that requires a person 18 years of age or older to wear a seat belt while a passenger in or operator of a motor vehicle.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-377) proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.