

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**JULY 1999**

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Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait  
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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](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:

*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 1849****An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Public Easements and the Discontinuance of Town Ways****CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCKEE NUTTING J		

LD 1849, which was carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes that a municipality may only retain a public easement in a discontinued road by stating in the discontinuance order that a public easement is retained. This bill would reverse current law under which the public easement is automatically retained unless the discontinuance order states that the easement is not to be retained.

**LD 1867****An Act to Amend the InforME Laws****ONTP**

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

LD 1867 proposed to amend the InforME Public Information Access Act in the following ways:

1. Add a member who represents the interests of the Legislature to the InforME Board and make a representative of the Judicial Department appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court a voting member;
2. Require the Department of the Attorney General to provide legal services to the InforME Board;
3. Require the attendance of nine voting members to constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of nine members to take any action of the InforME Board;
4. Require free access to premium services to be provided to libraries, the Legislature, the Governor and the Judicial Department and require the approval of the data custodian for any premium service fee;
5. Require consultation with the Attorney General for the development of job criteria for a network manager. The bill would require a one-year initial term and an opt-out provision for any contract; and
6. Require the network manager to ensure that any information transmitted through the network does not become inaccurate as a result of manipulation or customizing of the information in the process of developing a premium service.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-414)** was a minority report that was not adopted. It proposed to replace the bill and to require free InforME premium services to be provided to all libraries in the State.

**LD 1870****An Act to Change the Charter of the Eastport Port Authority****ONTP**

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

LD 1870 proposed to expand the membership of the Eastport Port Authority to include six members from Washington County. It also would have expanded the liability for new bonds issued by the authority from all property within the boundaries of the City of Eastport to all property within the boundaries of Washington County.

**LD 1876**                      **An Act to Reform County Governance**                      **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 1876, which was carried over to the Second Regular Session, is a concept draft that seeks to reform county government by creating a uniform structure for county governments. The bill proposed to:

1. Increase the number of commissioners;
2. Make the commissioner districts uniform in size within the county;
3. Stagger the terms of the commissioners; and
4. Authorize the commissioners to appoint the following:
  - A. The sheriff;
  - B. The register of deeds;
  - C. The register of probate;
  - D. The county treasurer; and
  - E. The Judge of Probate.

**LD 1887**                      **An Act to Provide Access to Information Services in All Communities of the State**                      **PUBLIC 428**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KONTOS	OTP-AM    A	H-683   AHEARNE
BUMPS	ONTP        B	S-300
	OTP-AM    C	S-321   PENDLETON

LD 1887 proposed to expand access to the electronic databases of the State by creating the Maine Governmental Information Network Board. The board would be charged with overseeing the expansion of the State's wide-area computer network to encompass municipalities, counties and other providers of state services. This bill proposed to require the Secretary of State to provide administrative support to the board. This bill sought an appropriation from the General Fund of \$5,000,000 during the 2000-2001 biennium.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-300)** was the majority report. It proposed to amend the bill by deleting reference to the State's wide-area computer network. It also proposed to delete reference to expansion of the statewide computer network. The amendment also proposed to delete the appropriation section and added a fiscal note. The amendment also proposed to add a new section to the bill that established the Maine Governmental Information Network Fund as a nonlapsing Other Special Revenue fund. It proposed to authorize the Secretary of State to expend money received by the