

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LEGAL AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

JULY 1999

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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.

games of chance laws with the commission. The Chief of the State Police remains the enforcement body with regard to beano and games of chance.

The Beano and Games of Chance Commission would consist of five members appointed by the Governor and subject to approval by the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over legal and veterans affairs.

LD 1938

An Act to Provide Equity for Veterans of the Vietnam War and the Persian Gulf Conflict

PUBLIC 462

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE	OTP-AM	S-291 S-330 DAGGETT

LD 1938 proposed to expand the description of the Persian Gulf War period in various provisions of law to coincide with the federally recognized war period. It proposed to give Persian Gulf War veterans the same preferences in employment, rights to burial in the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery and property tax exemptions as veterans of other wars.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-291) proposed to add a mandate preamble and a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-330) proposed to extend to Vietnam veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the federally recognized period the same preferences in employment, rights to burial in the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery and property tax exemptions that veterans of other wars receive.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 462 expands the description of the Persian Gulf War to coincide with the federally recognized war period. It gives those who served in the Persian Gulf War or those who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War the same preferences in employment, rights to burial in the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery and property tax exemptions that veterans of other wars receive.

LD 1945

Resolve, Authorizing the Family of Adam Wilson to Sue the Town of Rockport

ONTP

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

LD 1945 proposed to authorize Theresa, Kenneth and Adam Wilson, of Warren, to sue the Town of Rockport for damages resulting from an accident on Route 73 in Thomaston, Maine.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-348), which was not adopted, is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs, and proposed to do the following:

1. Add a mandate preamble;
2. Reference the standards that must be applied by the court in determining any liability or damages;
3. Increase the amount of recovery authorized from \$500,000 to \$750,000;

- 4. Remove section 2 of the resolve as it is redundant; and
- 5. Add a fiscal note to the resolve.

LD 1997 **An Act to Amend the Election Laws to Prohibit Signing Nomination Papers for More than the Number of Seats Available** **ONTP**

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

LD 1997 proposed to amend current law regarding elections to town offices by restoring the provision, deleted in 1995, that a voter may sign only as many nomination papers for each office as there are vacancies to be filled. The bill also proposed to extend this limitation to nomination papers for state and county offices.

LD 2008 **An Act to Amend the Maine Clean Election Act** **ONTP**

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

LD 2008 proposed to amend the Maine Clean Election Act to eliminate the requirement that a candidate raise a certain amount of money in order to get public financing. The bill would have required that in order to be certified as a Maine Clean Election Act Candidate, the candidate must collect twice the number of signatures required for a candidate by petition.

LD 2020 **Resolve, Directing the Bureau of Liquor Enforcement to License an Agency Liquor Store in the City of Caribou** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'NEAL KIEFFER		

LD 2020, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to direct the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Liquor Enforcement to license an agency liquor store in the City of Caribou no later than 60 days after the effective date of this resolve.

LD 2032 **An Act to Clarify Maine's Campaign Finance Laws** **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 2032, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to exempt a candidate for Governor from the limitations on contributions if an opponent or spouse of an opponent lends or contributes an aggregate of at least \$25,000 to the opponent's gubernatorial campaign.