

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

Staff:

*Danielle D. Fox, Legislative Analyst
Christopher J. Spruce, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*

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Sen. Richard J. Carey
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Rep. Terrence P. McKenney*



**Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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 2061**An Act to Enhance Harness Racing in the State****INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TESSIER	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2061 proposed to authorize the operation of video lottery terminals at existing regulated pari-mutuel facilities and establish the State's share of net terminal income at 40%.

This bill was not referenced to a committee.

LD 2133 Resolve, Directing the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to Simplify the Reporting Form for Candidates CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LIBBY	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2133, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to direct the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to revert to the format used in the reporting form for candidates in 1996, except that a check-off box may be added to identify the nature of certain types of expenditures and revenues.

LD 2134 An Act to Improve Maine's Ballot Access Law

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAWRENCE	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2134 proposed to remove the provision in current law for the establishment of a political party that requires a candidate for Governor or President from the proposed party to get 5% of the total vote cast in the last preceding gubernatorial or presidential election. It proposed to replace this provision with the requirement that provides a list of registered voters, enrolled or provisionally enrolled in the proposed party, equal at least 1/2 of 1% of the total number of Maine residents (about 6,000 voters) in order to establish the party. The bill would have also allowed for provisional enrollment in parties seeking full party status. Under this proposal, an enrollee would have been provisional until such time as the party attains full party status.

LD 2141 An Act to Remove the Limit on the Amount of Complimentary Wine that a Wine Retailer may Receive Annually CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MUSE RAND	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2141, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to remove the limit on the amount of wine samples that certain retailers licensed to sell wine may receive from a small brewery, farm winery or wholesaler.