

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.

LD 2148**An Act to Improve Harness Racing in the State****CARRIED OVER**Sponsor(s)
TESSIERCommittee ReportAmendments Adopted

LD 2148, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to authorize the operation at existing regulated pari-mutuel facilities of video lottery terminals and would establish the State's share of net terminal income at 40%.

LD 2153**An Act to Modify the Campaign Finance Laws with Regard to Running for Federal Office****CARRIED OVER**Sponsor(s)
MCALEVEYCommittee ReportAmendments Adopted

LD 2153, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to require a state Legislator who is running for a federal office to file a report with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. This bill also would change the law to exempt solicitations or contributions made during a legislative session for the purposes of supporting a campaign for federal office.

LD 2162**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow Persons with Mental Illness to Vote****CARRIED OVER**Sponsor(s)
BRENNAN
DAGGETTCommittee ReportAmendments Adopted

LD 2162, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes upon approval at referendum, to remove the current restriction that prohibits persons with a mental illness from voting.

LD 2183**An Act to Clarify Provisions of the Laws Administered by the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices****CARRIED OVER**Sponsor(s)Committee ReportAmendments Adopted

LD 2183, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to clarify numerous issues affecting the efficiency and performance of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices. It would more clearly outline for Legislators the standards of conduct and conflict of interest provisions, financial disclosure requirements, advisory opinions and conflict of interest complaint procedures. The bill proposes to make consistent with other provisions of law those items that are considered a gift to Legislators. Penalty provisions of \$10 per day for failure to file a financial disclosure report are proposed. A four-year statute of limitations for complaints on legislative conduct is proposed.