

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)
TESSIER

Committee Report

Amendments 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)
MCALEVEY

Committee Report

Amendments 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
DAGGETT

Committee Report

Amendments 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 Report

Amendments 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.

The duties and responsibilities of the treasurer for a political action committee are clarified. The bill allows a deputy treasurer to be appointed as having the same authority as the treasurer. Procedures and requirements for dissolving political action committees also are outlined.

A limitation on the use of campaign contributions for personal use is proposed and those things that are considered personal use are described.

The bill grants the commission greater flexibility in determining penalties for violations concerning campaign finance reports if bona fide efforts were made to file the report.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Commission on Governmental Ethics.

LD 2195 An Act to Allow a Specialty Wine Store to Provide Free Wine Samples CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MACK		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2195, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to allow a specialty wine store to give wine samples. The bill is proposing to require the store to have a designated area for the sampling of the wine and also to establish conditions under which the wine sampling may take place. Finally, the bill is proposing to allow an unlimited number of taste testings per month and require a retail licensee to charge for the wine tasting.

LD 2200 An Act to Permit Persons Out-of-state to Ship Malt Liquor and Wine to Maine Residents CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAWRENCE WHEELER G		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2200, which has been carried over to the Second Regular Session, proposes to allow a person outside of this State to ship to a household in Maine up to 2.4 gallons of malt liquor and 2.4 gallons of wine per month.

LD 2224 An Act to Clarify the Definitions of "Contribution" and "Expenditure" under the Campaign Finance Laws PUBLIC 432

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ROWE LAWRENCE		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-676
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LD 2224 proposed to clarify what the definition of "contribution" does not include for the purposes of the law regarding campaign reports and finances. This bill also proposed to clarify what the definition of "expenditure" does not include for the purposes of the law regarding campaign reports and finances. Under the bill neither contributions nor expenditures would include documents created or maintained by a political party for the general purposes of party building, certain compensation paid by a political party to an employee, campaign training sessions provided to three or more candidates or the use of office equipment that involves no additional cost to the provider.