

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
JUDICIARY**

JULY 1999

MEMBERS:

Sen. Susan W. Longley, Chair

Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat

Sen. John W. Benoit

Rep. Richard H. Thompson, Chair

Rep. Thomas Bull

Rep. Charles C. Laverdiere

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Rep. Donna M. Loring

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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 2213**An Act to Create and Regulate the Profession of Legal Document Technician****CARRIED OVER**

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> STEDMAN | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

LD 2213 proposes to regulate the profession of legal document technician. As proposed, a legal document technician is a person who, for compensation, provides a legal form to a client or fills in, files or serves a legal form pursuant to a specific request by a client. Under this bill, a legal document technician may not provide advice, explanation, opinion or recommendation to a client concerning legal rights, remedies, defenses, options, strategies or selection of forms or any other service that the legal document technician is not specifically authorized to provide. In addition to specifying the types of services that legal document technicians may provide, the bill proposes penalties for legal document technicians who provide unauthorized services.

This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 2226**An Act Relating to Remedies for Unlawful Housing Discrimination****CARRIED OVER**

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> SAXL M | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

LD 2226 proposes to amend the Maine Human Rights Act by removing limitations on attorney's fees and damages for civil actions based upon discrimination in housing to make the state law substantially equivalent to the federal Fair Housing Act.

This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 2239**An Act to Ensure Civil Rights and Prevent Discrimination****CARRIED OVER**

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> ABROMSON SAXL M | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|

LD 2239 proposes that all citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation, have the same civil rights protections now guaranteed in employment, housing, public accommodations and credit to citizens on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin and physical or mental handicap. The bill proposes that a religious organization that does not receive public funds is exempt from the prohibition against discrimination based on sexual orientation. The bill also proposes that this change in law be submitted to the voters at the next general election.

This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.