

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TRANSPORTATION**

JULY 2000

MEMBERS:

Sen. William B. O'Gara, Chair

Sen. Judy A. Paradis

Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy

Rep. Joseph M. Jabar, Sr., Chair

Rep. Gerald N. Bouffard

Rep. Charles D. Fisher

Rep. Gary J. Wheeler

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Rep. Ronald F. Collins

Staff:

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of 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:

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
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT.....Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP.....Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONT P..... 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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

LD 2265**An Act to Allow a Person with a Disability to Ride in Vehicles Being Towed****ONTP**Sponsor(s)
CARRCommittee Report
ONTPAmendments Adopted

LD 2265 proposed to create an exception to the prohibition of riding in a vehicle that is being towed for those people who are disabled.

LD 2270**An Act to Amend the Law Regarding Disability License Plates****PUBLIC 544**Sponsor(s)
SANBORNCommittee Report
OTPAmendments Adopted

LD 2270 proposed to allow the Secretary of State to issue more than one set of disability registration plates to a qualified applicant.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 544 allows the Secretary of State to issue more than one set of disability license plates or placards to a qualified applicant.

LD 2303**An Act to Amend Truck Weights****PUBLIC 580**Sponsor(s)
LINDAHLCommittee Report
OTP-AMAmendments Adopted
H-804

LD 2303 proposed to repeal the requirement for obtaining a permit to operate at 100,000 pounds, in favor of a 100,000-pound registration. This provision would have become effective April 1, 2001, the scheduled date for entry of several Canadian provinces into the International Registration Program.

The bill proposed to allow the Secretary of State to establish, with the cooperation of the Commissioner of Transportation, a method of issuing long-term overweight permits for nondivisible loads.

The bill would have clarified the application of weight fines.

The bill also proposed to allow the 4-axle truck, 2-axle trailer vehicle to register for its allowable gross vehicle weight limit and would have repealed special certifications previously required for this vehicle.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-804) proposed to maintain the current fine schedule for violations by vehicles registered for 100,000 pounds.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 580 streamlines the registration process for trucks between 90,000 and 100,000 pounds. It repeals the requirement for trucks to obtain a permit to operate at 100,000 pounds, in favor of a 100,000-pound registration. This provision becomes effective April 1, 2001, the scheduled date for entry of several Canadian provinces into the International Registration Program.

The law permits the Secretary of State to establish, with the cooperation of the Commissioner of Transportation, a method of issuing long-term overweight permits for nondivisible loads.

The law clarifies the application of weight fines and allows the 4-axle truck, 2-axle trailer vehicle to register for its allowable gross vehicle weight limit and repeals special certifications previously required for this vehicle.

The current fine schedule for violations by vehicles registered for 100,000 pounds is retained.

LD 2312

An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws

**DIED BETWEEN
BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'GARA	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	

LD 2312 proposed to affect the motor vehicle statutes as follows:

1. It authorized a law enforcement officer who has stopped a vehicle for another violation to demand and inspect the operator's record of duty status and medical examiner's certificate if the operator was required to have those documents.
2. It allowed a permit to be issued by a law enforcement agency to tow an unregistered vehicle using a tow dolly. Currently, a permit can be issued to tow by use of a service wrecker or tow bar.
3. It allowed Department of Public Safety vehicles operated by motor carrier inspectors to be equipped with amber auxiliary lights.
4. It required an operator passing a stationary authorized emergency vehicle using an emergency light to yield the right-of-way to that emergency vehicle by changing lanes, if possible, or passing at a careful and prudent speed.
5. It prohibited an operator from following within 150 feet of an authorized emergency vehicle that is using an emergency light.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-485) proposed that, while any law enforcement officer has the authority to inspect a driver's record of duty status and medical certificate, only a properly trained officer could take enforcement action. This amendment would have removed section 4 of the bill relating to passing stopped emergency vehicles with flashing lights.