

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TRANSPORTATION**

JULY 2000

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Sen. Judy A. Paradis

Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy

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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
- 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 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

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.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-814) would have exempted toll receipts from inspection by law enforcement officers.

House Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-905) would have allowed a law enforcement officer to inspect a driver's toll receipts, but would have prohibited the use of those toll receipts in court as evidence against the driver.

LD 2321 **An Act to Provide Recognition for Korean Conflict Veterans on Special Veterans Registration Plates** **PUBLIC 751 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FISHER LAWRENCE	OTP-AM	H-845

LD 2321 would have provided special motor vehicle registration plates for Korean War veterans.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-845) proposed to direct the Secretary of State to design a decal commemorating veterans of the Korean Conflict that may be affixed over the red "V" on special veterans registration plates. These decals would be sold for one year.

The Secretary of State was also directed to convene a task force to examine whether other commemorative decals could be developed and distributed. The amendment proposed that the task force report its findings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters by January 2, 2001. This amendment was an emergency.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 751 directs the Secretary of State to design a decal commemorating veterans of the Korean Conflict that may be affixed over the red "V" on special veterans registration plates. These decals may be sold for one year.

The Secretary of State is also directed to convene a task force to examine whether other commemorative decals can be developed and distributed. The task force must report its findings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters by January 2, 2001.

Public Law 1999, chapter 751 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 5, 2000.

LD 2322 **An Act to Create a Purple Heart Motorcycle License Plate** **PUBLIC 734**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-790