

# 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:***

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*Sen. Judy A. Paradis*

*Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy*

*Rep. Joseph M. Jabar, Sr., Chair*

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*Rep. Edgar Wheeler*

*Rep. Ronald F. Collins*

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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](http://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

LD 2322 proposed to create a Purple Heart motorcycle registration plate.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-789)**, the majority report of the committee, would have codified the current practice of making a disabled veterans motorcycle license plate available to qualified veterans. It would have required the Secretary of State to redesign the disabled veterans registration plate for use on motorcycles and allow for space to affix a special decal recognizing Purple Heart medal recipients. It also would have required the Secretary of State to review the feasibility of recognizing other special veterans with decals that can be affixed to the disabled veterans motorcycle license plate.

**Committee Amendment "B" (H-790)**, the minority report of the committee, would have exempted the special Purple Heart medal recipient motorcycle license plate from the current sponsorship requirements for specialty license plates and reformatted the original bill. The amendment also would have codified the current practice of making a disabled veterans motorcycle license plate available to qualified veterans.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 734 exempts the special Purple Heart medal recipient motorcycle license plate from the current sponsorship requirements for specialty license plates. The amendment also codifies the current practice of making a disabled veterans motorcycle license plate available to qualified veterans.

**LD 2323**                      **An Act to Clarify the Requirements for Certifying Driving Time Prior to Obtaining a License**                      **PUBLIC 545**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WHEELER G		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2323 would have authorized a stepparent to certify the driving time of a permittee who is under 21 years of age and is applying for an operator's license. The bill also proposed to exempt a person 21 years of age or older from the requirement to submit certification of driving time.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 545 adds a step-parent to the list of allowable family members that can certify the driving time of a permittee who is under 21 years of age and is applying for an operator's license. This law also exempts a person 21 years of age or older from the requirement to submit certification of driving time.

**LD 2332**                      **An Act Concerning Motor Vehicle Registration and Title Fees for Certain Veterans' License Plates**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2332 proposed to implement one of the recommendations of the Committee to Study Standardized Periods of Military Service and Other Matters Related to the Award of State of Maine Veterans' Benefits.

It would have reduced from \$23 to \$5 the annual registration fee paid by honorably discharged veterans who use the special veterans registration plates in lieu of regular registration plates.

The bill also would have exempted any qualified veteran who obtains the Purple Heart medal recipient plate, the Pearl Harbor survivor plate or the former prisoner of war plate from paying either an annual registration fee or a title fee for the privilege of acquiring and displaying these special plates.

**LD 2338**                      **An Act to Clarify the Crosswalk Law**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POWERS HARRIMAN	ONTP	

LD 2338 would have required an operator of a motor vehicle to yield to a pedestrian anywhere within a marked crosswalk. This bill would have maintained the current law for crosswalks on roads that are fewer than 4 lanes, but required an operator on larger roads to yield only when the pedestrian is in the crosswalk on the same side of the road or so close to the operator's vehicle as to be in danger.

**LD 2370**                      **An Act to Amend Certain Transportation Laws**                      **PUBLIC 753**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PARADIS JABAR	OTP-AM    MAJ ONTP        MIN	S-532

LD 2370 proposed to make the following changes to the laws governing transportation.

1. It provided that the Department of Transportation may grant or otherwise transfer easements over property taken or acquired for transportation purposes when the department in its sole discretion determined that the conveyance of such easements is appropriate and necessary.
2. It provided that the owners of real property proposed to be acquired for federal, state and federally assisted highway projects were not in all cases required to pay rent in the event that they occupy the property beyond the date of acquisition.
3. It proposed to change the requirements for notice of the time and place of a hearing on a petition to condemn land filed with the State Claims Commission by the Department of Transportation. It would have allowed the commission to send notice to the department, landowners and lienholders by first class mail rather than registered mail and allows service by publication if a party can not be reached by mail.
4. It proposed to codify current practice by providing that the formula for distribution of Urban-Rural Initiative Program funds include roads maintained by a municipality that are not town ways.
5. It proposed to clarify that the Department of Transportation does not have responsibility for designating no-passing zones on roads that are not the responsibility of the department.