

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY**

**JULY 2000**

***MEMBERS:***

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***Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat***

***Sen. John W. Benoit***

***Rep. Richard H. Thompson, Chair***

***Rep. Thomas Bull***

***Rep. Charles C. LaVerdiere***

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***Staff:***

***Margaret J. Reinsch, Esq., Principal Analyst***

***Deborah C. Friedman, Esq., Senior Legislative Analyst***

***Office of Policy and Legal Analysis***

***13 State House Station***

***Augusta, ME 04333***

***(207)287-1670***



**Maine State Legislature**  
**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013  
 Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
 Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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

24. Chapter 790, Part S corrects an error contained in Public Law 1999, chapter 777 by amending the General Fund appropriation.

Public Law 1999, chapter 790 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 18, 2000, although some sections have different effective dates.

**LD 2348**

**An Act to Enact the Maine Death with Dignity Act**

**ONTP**

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

LD 2348 was an Initiated Bill. It proposed to create the Maine Death with Dignity Act. It proposed to allow a mentally competent adult who is suffering from a terminal illness to request and obtain medication from a physician to end that patient's own life in a humane and dignified manner, with safeguards to ensure that the patient's request is voluntary and based on an informed decision.

Because the bill was not enacted by the Legislature without change, pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 of the Maine Constitution, the proposed language will appear as a referendum question submitted to the voters at the next statewide election.

**LD 2354**

**An Act to Increase the Pay for Jury Duty**

**DIED ON  
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS P MCALEVEY		OTP-AM		S-576

LD 2354 proposed to increase the rate of compensation for jurors from \$10 to \$25 for each day of required attendance at court.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-576)** proposed to add an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 2394**

**An Act to Allow Limited Access to Information Relating to  
Investigation of Abuse at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf**

**P & S 62  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
THOMPSON		OTP-AM		H-784

LD 2394 proposed to give the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary access to information, including records, relating to any investigation of abuse that occurred at the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf, notwithstanding applicable confidentiality laws. The bill proposed to establish the basic process of review