

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
LEGAL AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**JULY 2000**

***Staff:***

*Danielle D. Fox, Legislative Analyst  
Christopher Spruce, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
13 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207)287-1670*

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**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

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHIZMAR	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-1045 S-647 DAGGETT

LD 2462 proposed to amend the laws regarding games of chance licensed to be conducted by agricultural fair societies and bona fide non-profits during the annual fair of an agricultural society. It proposed that the fair society may pay non-members to operate licensed games of chance as long as those payments would not exceed 300% of the state's minimum wage. It proposed to allow fair societies and bona fide non-profits to lease machines for conducting games of change from licensed distributors as long as the lease amount not exceed 50% of the gross return from the machine. LD 2462 also proposed that games of chance conducted at agricultural fairs be conducted with tickets or tokens and not cash.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-1045)** proposed to specify that each gaming apparatus leased to an agricultural fair be required to have a separate individual lease. The maximum amount to be gambled per game on a licensed game of chance would be changed from 50¢ to \$1 by this amendment. Under this amendment proceeds from games of chance conducted agricultural fairs could be used to pay the wages of persons who operate games of chance as long as payment not exceed 300% of minimum wage. The amendment also proposed to specify that games operated by an agricultural fair or bona fide nonprofit may use cash, tokens, tickets or other device approved by the Chief of the State Police. As proposed, beginning January 1, 2001, those games not run solely by the fair or bona fide nonprofit would be required to use tokens, tickets or other device approved by the Chief of the State Police. The amendment also proposed to add a requirement that the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over games of chance review this Act, if passed, by November 15, 2003.

This amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-647)** proposed to add an emergency preamble and clause to the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 716, specifies that agricultural fair societies licensed to operate games of chance may use the proceeds of those games to pay the wages of those who operate the games as long as the amount does not exceed 300% of the minimum wage established by Maine law. This law states that a licensed distributor of gambling machines may lease equipment to agricultural fair societies licensed to conduct games of chance as long as the lease amount does not exceed 50% of the gross revenue of any licensed game of chance. Under this law, the maximum bet on a game of chance was increased from 50 cents to one dollar.

Public Law 1999, chapter 716 also requires, beginning January 1, 2001, that games of chance at agricultural fairs which are operated by persons other than members of the agricultural fair society or a bona fide nonprofit be conducted using tokens, tickets or some other device approved by the Chief of the State Police by rule.

Public Law 1999, chapter 716 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 14, 2000.