

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
120th Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Legal and Veterans' Affairs*

*August 2001*

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**120th Legislature  
First Regular Session**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees  
August 2001**

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 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:

*CARRIED OVER*..... *Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session*  
*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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is **September 21, 2001**.

*David E. Boulter, Director*  
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## Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

**LD 59**

### **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Increase the Number of Signatures Required on Direct Initiative Petitions**

**ONTP**

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

LD 59 proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to require that the number of signatures required on a petition to directly initiate legislation be not less than 15% of the total vote for Governor cast in the last preceding gubernatorial election. The percentage currently required is 10%.

**LD 88**

### **Resolve, Authorizing Zelma Rudge to Sue the State**

**ONTP**

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

LD 88 proposed to authorize Zelma Rudge, as personal representative of the estate of Victor Lizzotte, to bring a civil action against the State for damages resulting from the alleged negligence of the Department of Human Services concerning the death of Victor Lizzotte. The resolve would have allowed the State to be sued up to a maximum of \$250,000 or to the applicable insurance policy limits.

**LD 108**

### **An Act to Expand the Number of Authorized High-stakes Beano and High-stakes Bingo Games**

**PUBLIC 295**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LORING CATHCART	OTP-AM	H-439

LD 108 proposed to provide that a federally recognized Indian tribe that operates high-stakes beano or high-stakes bingo is operating in the tribe's governmental capacity. When operating in a governmental capacity, the tribe is not subject to taxation. The bill also proposed to allow high-stakes beano and high-stakes bingo games to be operated on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-439)** struck the section of the bill that states that the operation of high-stakes beano and high-stakes bingo is within a federally recognized Indian tribe's governmental capacity. It retained the provision that permits games to be conducted on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

#### *Enacted law summary*