

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
120th Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Transportation*

August 2001

Members:

Sen. Christine R. Savage, Chair

Sen. William B. O'Gara

Sen. Kenneth T. Gagnon

Rep. Charles D. Fisher

Rep. Gerald N. Bouffard

Rep. Gary J. Wheeler

Rep. George H. Bunker, Jr.

Rep. Boyd P. Marley

Rep. Rosaire Paradis, Jr.

Rep. Edgar Wheeler

Rep. Ronald F. Collins

Rep. Terrence P. McKenney

Rep. Deborah K. McNeil

Staff:

Todd Jorgensen, 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

**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).

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
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Committee Amendment "A" (H-218), the committee minority report, proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 95 **An Act to Prohibit the Use of Handheld Devices While Operating a Motor Vehicle** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BROOKS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 95 proposed to prohibit a person from using a handheld electronic device while operating a motor vehicle unless the person is a law enforcement or safety officer, the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle, the holder of a commercial driver's license who is driving within the scope of the holder's employment or public transit personnel. The bill also proposed to make the offense a traffic infraction.

LD 99 **Resolve, to Name Route 302 the 10th Mountain Division Highway** **RESOLVE 27**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAVIS G ABROMSON		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-219
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LD 99 proposed to name that section of Route 302 that runs between Portland and Fryeburg the 10th Mountain Division Highway.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-219) replaced the resolve and proposed to require the Department of Transportation to designate the part of Route 302 that starts in the City of Portland and continues through the Town of Fryeburg the "10th Mountain Division Highway." This designation would not change or otherwise affect any other names that municipalities may have adopted for this part of Route 302.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2001, chapter 27 requires the Department of Transportation to designate the part of Route 302 that starts in the City of Portland and continues through the Town of Fryeburg the "10th Mountain Division Highway." This designation may not change or otherwise affect any other names that municipalities may have adopted for this part of Route 302.

LD 102 **An Act to Restrict the Use of Handheld Telephones while Driving** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BOUFFARD LEMONT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 102 proposed to prohibit a person from using a handheld telephone while operating a motor vehicle if the operator holds the telephone in the operator's hand while driving. The bill also proposed to make the offense a traffic infraction.

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Committee Amendment "A" (H-38), was the minority report and would have replaced the bill. The amendment proposed to clarify the offense of using a handheld telephone while operating a motor vehicle. The amendment also proposed to specify that law enforcement officers, corrections officers and firefighters; drivers of authorized emergency vehicles; holders of commercial driver's licenses; public transit personnel; municipal public works personnel, Maine Turnpike Authority personnel and state transportation personnel, including all employees and contractors of the Department of Transportation, could use handheld telephones while driving within the scope of their employment.

LD 113 **An Act to Remove the Weight Limit Restrictions on Vanity Registration Plates** **PUBLIC 34**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BERRY D		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-15
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LD 113 proposed to remove the weight limit restrictions on the issuance of motor vehicle vanity registration plates.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-15) proposed to specify that the Secretary of State may not issue vanity plates for commercial truck tractors, long-term trailers and apportioned registrations under the International Registration Plan.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 34 removes the weight limit restrictions on the issuance of motor vehicle vanity registration plates but specifies that the Secretary of State may not issue vanity plates for commercial truck tractors, long-term trailers and apportioned registrations under the International Registration Plan.

LD 114 **Resolve, Requiring that the Waldo-Hancock Bridge be Replaced** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BERRY D		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 114 proposed to require the Department of Transportation to replace the Waldo-Hancock Bridge.

LD 116 **Resolve, to Create a Turnpike Exit 9 Pass** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAVIS G		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 116 proposed to direct the Maine Turnpike Authority to provide a waiver for travelers entering the Turnpike at Exit 8 or 10 and exiting at Exit 9. As proposed, travelers would have paid the toll at Exit 8 and 10, and upon request, would have received a pass to use Exit 9 at no charge.