

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).

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 181

An Act to Allow Families of Deceased Veterans to Maintain Cemetery Plots within the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System

ONTP

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

LD 181 proposed to allow the use of authorized polymer bases for headstones in Maine veterans' cemeteries. It also specified that polymer bases would not be provided at the state's expense. Polymer bases are intended to prevent grave markers from sinking and for minimizing plant growth around the grave markers.

LD 192

An Act to Provide Disclosure to Voters by a Person Paid to Collect Signatures

DIED IN CONCURRENCE

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAIGLE DOUGLASS	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 192 proposed to require any person who is paid to collect signatures for a petition to disclose that fact to a voter before the voter signs the petition.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-318), which was not adopted, proposed to replace the original bill. It proposed to require that every sheet of a citizen initiative petition include a sentence that would read: "This petition may or may not be circulated by someone who is paid to collect signatures."

LD 193

Resolve, to Establish a Centralized Voter Registration List for the State

RESOLVE 58 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TESSIER GAGNON	OTP-AM	H-438 S-341 BENNETT

LD 193 proposed to require the Secretary of State to maintain a central voting list for the State and to update the list at least once a year by requesting the voting list from the registrar of every municipality in the State. This bill also proposed to require a registrar to furnish the voting list for the registrar's municipality to the Secretary of State upon request from the Secretary of State.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-438) replaced the original bill and created a resolve that establishes a task force to study implementing a central voting list for the State to be conducted by the Secretary of State.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-341) removed the authority of the Secretary of State to convene a task force to study the requirements necessary to develop and implement a centralized voter

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registration list and instead establishes the Task Force to Establish a Centralized Voter Registration List. Members of the task force are to be appointed jointly by the Speaker of the House and the ranking leader of the House Republicans and the President and President Pro Tempore of the Senate and consist of municipal officials, a representative of the League of Women Voters of Maine, public members, representatives of the major political parties, the State Information Officer, the Secretary of State and staff from the Secretary of State's office. The task force is required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs. This amendment also added an emergency preamble and clause to the committee amendment.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2001, chapter 58 requires the Secretary of State to convene a task force to study the requirements necessary to develop and implement a centralized voter registration list and instead establishes the Task Force to Establish a Centralized Voter Registration List. Members of the task force are appointed jointly by the Speaker of the House and the ranking leader of the House Republicans and the President and President Pro Tempore of the Senate and consist of municipal officials, a representative of the League of Women Voters of Maine, public members, representatives of the major political parties, the State Information Officer, the Secretary of State and staff from the Secretary of State's office. The task force is required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs.

Resolve 2001, chapter 58 was passed as an emergency measure effective June 19, 2001.

LD 194 **An Act to Ensure Stability in Maine's Harness Racing and Off-track Betting Business** **ONTP**

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

LD 194 proposed to provide that a racetrack could accept wagers on simulcast races only if it had been authorized to and had accepted such wagers in the past or if it was located outside the market areas of existing businesses established to accept such wagers.

LD 199 **RESOLUTION, Proposing An Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Restrict Reintroduction of Previously Failed Citizen Initiatives** **ONTP**

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

LD 199 proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to bar for 6 years the direct initiation by a citizen of legislation that was rejected by the people of the State. Under this resolution, the issue of whether an initiative is