

# 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 254

**Resolve, Authorizing Charles O'Conner to Sue the State**

ONTP

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

LD 254 proposed to allow Charles O'Conner to sue the State for the purpose of recovering his liquor license. If the plaintiff, Charles O'Conner, prevailed in the suit, the resolve would have required the Bureau of Liquor Enforcement to renew O'Conner's liquor license.

**LD 255**

**An Act to Require the State Harness Racing Commission to Appoint Judges for Harness Races**

ONTP

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

LD 255 proposed to provide for the Maine Harness Racing Commission to appoint the judges and associate judges to preside at licensed racing meets. Once appointed by the commission, the judge would be an employee of the person licensed to conduct the racing meets.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-506)**, which was not adopted, proposed to continue to allow persons licensed to conduct commercial and extended meets to hire their own judges from lists of judges who have been duly licensed by the Maine Harness Racing Commission. For all other racing meets, the amendment would have required that the commission appoint judges and associate judges licensed by the commission.

LD 257

**An Act to Discourage Underage Consumption of Alcohol by a Minor**

PUBLIC 160

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LABRECQUE SAVAGE C	OTP-AM	H-167

LD 257 proposed to amend the laws prohibiting the consumption of alcohol by a minor by increasing the forfeiture for violation from not less than \$100 nor more than \$300 to not less than \$200 nor more than \$400 for the first offense; not less than \$200 nor more than \$500 to not less than \$300 nor more than \$600 for the 2nd offense; and from \$500 to \$600 for a 3rd or subsequent offense. The bill also proposed to give the court the authority to suspend a license if a minor violates Title 28-A, section 2051, subsection 1, paragraph D that prohibits use of any evidence of age that is false, fraudulent or not the minor's own.