

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
120th Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Legal and Veterans' Affairs*

May 2002

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120th Legislature
Second Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 2002

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 arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

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
PASSED	Joint Order passed in both bodies
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 July 25, 2002.

Patrick T. Norton, Interim Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

LD 289

An Act Regarding Horse Racing

PUBLIC 567

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCKENNEY FERGUSON	OTP-AM	H-794

LD 289, which was carried over from the first regular session, proposed to amend the definition of a "commercial track" by deleting the different criteria that currently apply to areas with different populations. It also proposed to make technical changes to make the use of this term consistent with the term "commercial licensee."

Committee Amendment "A" (H-794) proposed to replace the original bill. It would specify that harness racing judges for commercial tracks are appointed by the State Harness Racing Commission with the approval of the track and that the judges are hired as employees of the track on an annual basis. It also would provide for the transfer of a commercial track license to another location. This amendment would provide that if a race date at a commercial track is canceled due to a horse shortage that race date is still valid for the purposes of meeting the number of race dates required for the track to qualify as a commercial track.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 567 amends the definition of a "commercial track" by deleting the different criteria that currently apply to areas with different populations. It also makes technical changes to make the use of this term consistent with the term "commercial licensee." Public Law 2001, chapter 567 specifies that harness racing judges for commercial tracks are appointed by the State Harness Racing Commission with the approval of the track and that the judges are hired as employees of the track on an annual basis. It also provides for the transfer of a commercial track license to another location. This law provides that if a race date at a commercial track is canceled due to a horse shortage that race date is still valid for the purposes of meeting the number of race dates required for the track to qualify as a commercial track.

LD 1340

An Act to Hold an Advisory Referendum on Term Limits

INDEF PP

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

LD 1340, which was carried over from the first regular session, proposed to direct the Secretary of State to hold an advisory referendum at a statewide election to determine whether the voters of the State favor amending or repealing the existing state law limiting the terms of Legislators.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-817) proposed to amend the original bill by submitting only one question regarding term limits to the voters. The question would ask the voter if the voter is in favor of repealing term limits for Legislators.