

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
120th Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Criminal Justice*

*August 2001*

**Members:**

*Sen. Michael J. McAlevey, Chair  
Sen. William B. O'Gara  
Sen. Paul T. Davis*

*Rep. Edward J. Povich, Chair  
Rep. Michael W. Quint  
Rep. Charles E. Mitchell  
Rep. Lillian LaFontaine O'Brien  
Rep. Patricia A. Blanchette  
Rep. Stanley J. Gerzofsky  
Rep. Judith B. Peavey  
Rep. Edgar Wheeler  
Rep. James H. Tobin, Jr.  
Rep. Lois A. Snowe-Mello*

**Staff:**

*Marion Hylan Barr, Legislative Analyst  
Jon Clark, Senior 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](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:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i> .....	<i>Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> .....	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i> .....	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i> .....	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

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 Criminal Justice

**LD 508**

### **An Act to Repeal the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Certification Requirements for Sheriffs**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOODWIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 508 proposed to remove the requirement that a sheriff or candidate for sheriff submit certification from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy showing that the sheriff or candidate has met the basic law enforcement training standards and basic corrections training standards and has 5 years of supervisory employment experience.

**LD 579**

### **An Act to Allow Sheriffs to Use Modern Record-keeping Technologies in the Maintenance of Jail Records**

**PUBLIC 33**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PEAVEY		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 579 proposed to remove the requirement that a sheriff keep certain information about prisoners committed to the jail under the sheriff's charge in a bound book and replace it with a requirement that this information be kept in a suitable, permanent record at the office of the sheriff.

#### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 2001, chapter 33 removes the requirement that a sheriff keep certain information about prisoners committed to the jail under the sheriff's charge in a bound book and replaces it with a requirement that this information be kept in a suitable, permanent record at the office of the sheriff.

**LD 601**

### **An Act to Provide for Relief from Mandatory Minimum Sentences in Certain Cases** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MILLS		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 601 proposed to grant the judge authority to deviate from a mandatory minimum sentence and a mandatory minimum fine in certain circumstances. Section 1 of the bill proposed to repeal the mandatory minimum sentences for aggravated trafficking, furnishing or cultivation of scheduled drugs. Section 2 of the bill proposed to give courts the authority to deviate from statutory mandatory minimum sentences if the gravity of the offense is not diminished or if the public's safety is not adversely affected and if imposing the mandatory sentence would be a substantial injustice and would frustrate the general purposes of sentencing. In making the decision the court shall