

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:

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

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

LD 523 **An Act to Create a Special Maine Indian Tribe License Plate** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SOCTOMAH SHOREY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 523 proposed to authorize the issuance of a special registration plate for members of the federally recognized Indian tribes in the State. As proposed, a portion of the one-time additional fee of \$15 would be credited to the Tribal Youth Recreation Fund that would have been created in this bill.

LD 545 **An Act to Remove the Requirement for Display of a Front License Plate on a Motor Vehicle** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PERRY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 545 proposed to amend the law concerning the display of registration plates on motor vehicles by making the display of a front plate optional while maintaining the requirement of the display of a rear plate.

LD 552 **An Act to Improve Police Officer Safety** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAVIS G		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 552 proposed to allow emergency lights on a police motorcycle to emit a combination of blue and red lights.

LD 557 **An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Pedestrians on a Public Way** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BUCK		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 557 proposed to clarify the law pertaining to pedestrian movement on public ways. The bill proposed to require persons using wheels of any kind, such as in-line skates or wheelchairs, to operate on the right side of the road and maintain 10 feet from the center line, giving the right-of-way to motor vehicles.

The bill also proposed to require that organized foot marathons be held on the right side of the public way provided that certain conditions were met: marathon organizers notified applicable law enforcement and government agencies; marathon organizers secured required permits; marathon organizers placed signs at a minimum of every 1/2 mile notifying vehicles of the event; signs included other information for the marathon participants or other vehicles; marathon organizers placed signs in advance of the event and removed signs within

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

30 minutes after the end of the event; signs met all other state standards; and participants had the right-of-way over vehicles and other persons except for public safety vehicles in service or on call.

LD 566 **An Act to Allow Vehicles to Travel for Inspection and Repair** **PUBLIC 180**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> POVICH YOUNGBLOOD		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-291
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LD 566 proposed that registration of a motor vehicle is not required for a motor vehicle purchased at auction by a dealer to be driven 25 miles or less from the dealership for inspection and repair.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-291) replaced the bill. The amendment proposed to allow a holder of a dealer license or a transporter registration certificate to operate a vehicle on a public way if the vehicle owner or the owner's employee operates the vehicle for the sole purpose of traveling to an inspection facility.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 180 allows a holder of a dealer license or a transporter registration certificate to operate a vehicle on a public way if the vehicle owner or the owner's employee operates the vehicle for the sole purpose of traveling to an inspection facility.

LD 591 **An Act to Ensure the Safety of Railroad Bridges** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HALL MICHAUD MH		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 591 proposed to authorize the Commissioner of Transportation to limit or prohibit the use of any railroad bridge that is found to be unsafe after an inspection.

LD 595 **Resolve, to Allocate Funds to the Department of Transportation for the Construction of a 2nd Bridge in Skowhegan** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HATCH GAGNON		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 595 proposed to allocate \$3,200,000 from the Highway Fund to the Department of Transportation for an engineering study to build a new bridge in Skowhegan.