

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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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
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Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

LD 565 **An Act to Discourage Drunken Driving** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MICHAEL		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 565 proposed to prohibit a person licensed to sell beer and wine for consumption off of the licensed premises for less than 5% over the wholesale price. It also proposed to require that the licensee sell malt liquor packaged only in a 6-pack or case.

LD 569 **An Act to Preserve the Integrity of the Polling Place by Limiting the Physical Presence of Candidates** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MICHAEL		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 569 proposed to limit a candidate's activities at polling places to voting. As proposed, the candidate would be prohibited from stating the name of the office sought by the candidate or requesting a person's vote within 250 feet of the polling place or registrar's office.

LD 574 **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Reduce the Number of Signatures Required for Citizen Initiatives** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MICHAEL		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 574 proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to require that the number of signatures required on a petition to directly initiate legislation be not less than 6% of the total vote for Governor cast in the last gubernatorial election. The currently required percentage is 10%.

LD 575 **RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Allow Maine Citizens to Propose Constitutional Amendments by Initiative** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MICHAEL		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 575 proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to permit citizens to initiate amendments to the Constitution of Maine. Under this bill, as proposed, a citizen-initiated amendment to the Constitution requires approval by 2/3

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

of the voters at a referendum, ratification by a majority of the Legislature and the signature of the Governor. It also proposed to specify that the Governor's veto of the amendment to the Constitution may be overridden by a majority vote in both Houses.

LD 580 **An Act to Prohibit Collection of Referendum Signatures on the Day of State Elections** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> STANLEY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 580 proposed to prohibit the collection of referendum signatures on the day of state-wide elections.

LD 623 **An Act to Require Election Law Training to Voter Registrars and Clerks** **PUBLIC 415**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TESSIER		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-503 S-326 GOLDTHWAIT
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LD 623 proposed to require each municipal clerk to attend a training session that is approved by the Secretary of State at least once every 2 years in regard to the conduct of elections.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-503) added a provision to the original bill that requires the Secretary of State to offer regional training sessions at least once every 2 years at no fee. This amendment added a requirement that the registrar of voters attend training once every 2 years and sets a delayed effective date of January 1, 2003.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-326) added a mandate preamble.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 415 requires that each municipal clerk and registrar of voters attend election law training that is approved by the Secretary of State at least once every two years. It also requires the Secretary of State to offer regional training sessions at least once every 2 years at no fee.

Public Law 2001, chapter 415 was passed as a municipal mandate and has an effective date of January 1, 2003.