

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
120th Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Judiciary*

*August 2001*

**Members:**

*Sen. Anne M. Rand, Chair*

*Sen. Michael J. McAlevey*

*Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr.*

*Rep. Charles C. LaVerdiere, Chair*

*Rep. Thomas D. Bull*

*Rep. Patricia T. Jacobs*

*Rep. Charles E. Mitchell*

*Rep. Christopher T. Muse*

*Rep. Deborah L. Simpson*

*Rep. David R. Madore*

*Rep. G. Paul Waterhouse*

*Rep. Stavros J. Mendros*

*Rep. Roger L. Sherman*

*Rep. Donna M. Loring*

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

## Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

**LD 683**                      **An Act to Allow Godparents as Intervenors in Child Custody Cases with the Department of Human Services**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SHERMAN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 683 proposed to extend intervenor status to godparents in any child protection proceeding.

See also LD 1793 and HP 1385.

**LD 684**                      **An Act to Require Courts to Take Federal Disability Payments into Account when Determining Child Support Awards**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PINKHAM		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 684 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. LD 684 proposed to establish guidelines that a court must use in determining awards of child support that would take into account federal disability payments received by the individual against whom the award is made. At a minimum, these guidelines would prohibit an award against an individual who is 100% disabled for more money than allowed under current federal standards regarding disability benefits.

**LD 698**                      **An Act to Prohibit Discrimination**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PERKINS LEMONT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP      MAJ OTP-AM    MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 698 proposed to repeal references to protected classes in portions of the Maine Human Rights Act and replace them with a general prohibition against discrimination in the areas specified in current law subject to certain exceptions.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-333)** was the minority report. It proposed to add a fiscal note. (Not adopted)

**LD 709**                      **An Act Regarding Ancient Execution Liens**                      **PUBLIC 275**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAVERDIERE		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-411
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