

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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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 Legal and Veterans' Affairs

LD 624 **An Act to Amend the Clean Election Laws** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TESSIER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 624 proposed to amend the Maine Clean Election Act by funding some certified candidates in uncontested general elections. Under this bill, in an uncontested general election a certified candidate for the State House of Representatives would receive \$1,500 and a certified State Senate candidate would receive \$5,000.

LD 696 **An Act to Allow for Fair Competition among Maine's Tracks** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TESSIER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 696 proposed to allow all commercial tracks to conduct live racing whenever any track in the State is simulcasting its races.

LD 729 **An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Presidential Primaries** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TESSIER GAGNON		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 729 proposed to amend the presidential primary process by allowing the parties to choose whether they want a primary or a caucus and allowing unenrolled voters to vote in a primary.

LD 755 **An Act to Clarify Referendum Wording** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SHIELDS NUTTING J		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 755 proposed to require that the wording of referenda be phrased so that an affirmative vote would be in favor of the subject matter in question rather than in favor of the petitioner's position.

The bill also proposed to require that the wording of referenda on the ballot at a municipal election be phrased so that an affirmative vote would be in favor of the change proposed pertaining to the subject matter in question.

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

Committee Amendment "A" (H-505), which was not adopted, proposed to strike the sections that govern the wording of referenda on municipal ballots. It would have retained the provision that governs the wording of referenda on statewide ballots.

LD 763 **An Act to Refine the Maine Clean Election Act** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BROOKS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 763 proposed to make the following changes to the Maine Clean Election Act:

1. Eliminate the requirement that a candidate collect qualifying contributions.
2. Reduce by 50% the amount of seed money contributions a candidate could accept.
3. Require that the fair market value of election material and equipment acquired by a candidate in a previous election and used by that candidate in a subsequent election be taken into account when matching funds are awarded.

LD 794 **An Act to Establish a Presumption of Commission of a Civil Violation for Minors Suspected of Consuming Alcohol** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DOUGLASS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 794 proposed to establish a presumption that a minor has committed the civil violation of consuming liquor or imitation liquor if a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe that the minor has consumed liquor or imitation liquor.

LD 835 **An Act to Eliminate Funding for Primary Elections under the Maine Clean Election Act** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CRESSEY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 835 proposed to eliminate funding for primary elections under the Maine Clean Election Act. It proposed to add this funding to funding for general election races. It also proposed to provide minimum funding of \$4,500 for a contested general election race.