

# 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](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*  
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## 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.