

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

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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:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

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 809 **An Act to Create a Maine Black Bears License Plate** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CATHCART DUNLAP	ONTP	

LD 809 proposed to establish the Maine Black Bears Scholarship Fund and the Maine Black Bears special registration plate, under which \$14 of the registration fee would be dedicated to providing scholarships for students attending the University of Maine.

LD 814 **An Act to Promote Safety on the Highways** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL B GOODWIN	ONTP	

LD 814 proposed to require that a vehicle hauling a trailer or semitrailer that is wider than the vehicle must be equipped with mirrors that allow an unobstructed view of approaching traffic. The bill also proposed to make it unlawful for certain vehicles to operate in the passing lane when hazardous conditions exist.

LD 826 **Resolve, to Restore the Steel Bridge in New Sharon** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINEAU	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 826 proposed to direct the Department of Transportation to restore the New Sharon Bridge located on former Route 2 and spanning the Sandy River in New Sharon.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-289), the committee minority report, proposed to replace the resolve and would have recognized the steel bridge in New Sharon as a historically significant bridge.

LD 829 **Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Transportation to Designate Routes for Over-limit Vehicles** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HALL SHOREY	ONTP	

LD 829 proposed to direct the Department of Transportation to designate routes that could be traveled by overweight vehicles from ports of entry from the provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick to no more than 10 miles into Maine. The bill proposed to require the department to establish weight limits for those routes that

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corresponded to the maximum weight limits of vehicles established in Quebec and New Brunswick. This resolve would have also required the department to establish a fee schedule that would take into consideration the additional wear and tear on those routes by the over-limit vehicles.

LD 843 **An Act to Clarify when Reduced Speed Limits are in Effect in School Zones** **PUBLIC 145
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MICHAUD ME	OTP-AM	H-179

LD 843 proposed to require a maximum rate of 15 miles per hour in a school zone when there are signs present indicating that the 15 miles per hour speed limit is in effect or as designated by the Department of Transportation or municipal ordinance.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-179) replaced the bill and proposed to require a maximum rate of 15 miles per hour in a school zone during recess, when children are going to or leaving school during school opening or closing hours, when school speed limit signs are flashing during school opening or closing hours or at other times designated by a municipal traffic ordinance that regulates town ways classified as local by the Department of Transportation in accordance with the federal functional classification system.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 145 requires a maximum rate of 15 miles per hour in a school zone during recess, when children are going to or leaving school during school opening or closing hours, when school speed limit signs are flashing during school opening or closing hours or at other times designated by a municipal traffic ordinance that regulates town ways classified as local by the Department of Transportation in accordance with the federal functional classification system.

Public Law 2001, chapter 145 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 14, 2001.

LD 858 **An Act to Revert the Seat Belt Law to the Form Approved by the Citizens** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PERKINS MCALEVEY	ONTP	

LD 858 proposed to restore statutory language that was repealed in 1997. Prior to the repeal, a person not wearing a seat belt could be fined for not wearing a seat belt only if the person was fined for the primary violation, i.e., the reason the person was originally stopped other than failure to wear a seat belt. This bill would have restored that provision to the form passed at referendum in 1995.