

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

Staff:

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OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

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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 Transportation

LD 938

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Outdoor Signs

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PENDLETON		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 938 proposed to allow messages on changeable message board signs to change as frequently as needed to display information on a timely basis.

LD 948

An Act Creating a Pilot Project to Provide Video Camera Surveillance at Intersections in Ellsworth

DIED BETWEEN BODIES

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> POVICH GOLDTHWAIT		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 948 proposed to provide funding to the City of Ellsworth for a 2-year pilot project to enable its police department to enforce the laws governing traffic control devices using a video camera. The funding would have enabled the city to purchase a video camera and equip 5 intersections in the city to accommodate the camera. The bill also proposed that a person who is a registered owner of a vehicle at the time that vehicle is involved in a violation of the laws governing traffic control devices commits a traffic infraction unless a defense applies.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-554), the committee majority report, proposed that a person who is a registered owner of a vehicle at the time that vehicle is involved in a violation of the laws governing traffic control devices or work zone speed limits commits a traffic infraction unless a defense applies. It also proposed to provide authority to the Department of Transportation to conduct a pilot project to enforce the laws governing traffic-control devices and work zone speed limits using photographic methods.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-585) proposed to clarify that the presumption that the owner was operating a vehicle at the time of a violation of the laws governing traffic-control devices or work zone speed limits, as specified in Committee Amendment "A," applies only to the registered owners of offending vehicles captured by photographic law enforcement. This amendment also proposed to change the penalty for a violation of the laws governing traffic-control devices or work zone speed limits captured by photographic law enforcement from an infraction to a warning. The amendment maintained the provision of the committee amendment regarding the establishment of a pilot program by the Department of Transportation.

LD 950

An Act to Eliminate the Fees Imposed on Purple Heart Recipients for Special Registration Plates

PUBLIC 155

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BUMPS		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-180
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LD 950 proposed to eliminate the \$10 one-time fee charged to a Purple Heart medal recipient that is issued a set of Purple Heart registration plates.

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Committee Amendment "A" (H-180) proposed to also eliminate the one-time additional fee of \$5 for special motorcycle registration plates for Purple Heart medal recipients.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 155 eliminates the \$10 one-time fee charged to a Purple Heart medal recipient that is issued a set of Purple Heart registration plates. It also eliminates the one-time additional fee of \$5 for special motorcycle registration plates for Purple Heart medal recipients.

LD 958 **An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Registration of Farm Trucks and Require the Secretary of State to Respond to Inquiries from the Public** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SNOWE-MELLO		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 958 proposed to allow farmers to use trucks registered as farm trucks to haul landscaping commodities, supplies and equipment to and from their farms. This bill also proposed to require the Secretary of State to reply responsively to inquiries from the public.

LD 972 **An Act Regarding Modified Show Vehicles** **PUBLIC 225**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TRAHAN		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-304
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LD 972 proposed to define "modified show vehicle" and "monster truck," and to allow the Secretary of State to provide a specialty plate for a modified show vehicle. The bill also proposed to specify that the inspection standards for a street rod apply to a modified show vehicle.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-304) replaced the bill and proposed to define "modified show vehicle" in the laws governing motor vehicles, establish the fee for registering a modified show vehicle and specify that the Chief of the State Police shall adopt rules that establish inspection standards for modified show vehicles.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 225 defines "modified show vehicle" in the laws governing motor vehicles, establishes the fee for registering a modified show vehicle and specifies that the Chief of the State Police shall adopt rules that establish inspection standards for modified show vehicles.