

# 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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**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](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 Transportation

**LD 983**

**An Act to Revise Driver Education Laws**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
BUCK

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 983 proposed to amend the requirements of the standardized driver education curriculum to include an Internet-based course that could be substituted for the minimum number of hours required for classroom instruction.

As proposed, the Secretary of State would expand current record keeping requirements to allow electronic filing, reporting and authorization. The Internet-based course would be governed by certain provider and curriculum conditions.

**LD 989**

**An Act to Strengthen Truck Weight Laws to Deter Gross Vehicle Weight Violations**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
SAVAGE C

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 989 proposed to increase the axle weights allowed for single-axle, tandem-axle and tri-axle trucks. This bill also proposed to increase the fines for trucks found in excess of the axle weight limits.

**LD 1004**

**An Act to Amend the Covered Load Laws**

**PUBLIC 144**

Sponsor(s)  
PENDLETON  
COLWELL

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
S-83

LD 1004 proposed to require a state police officer to check the load on a vehicle to ensure that it is secure at the same time that the officer checks the weight of that motor vehicle. The bill also proposed to make a violation of the unsecured load law an infraction subject to a forfeiture of \$500 for the first offense and a forfeiture of \$1,000 for the 2nd or subsequent offense.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-83)** proposed to change the fine for an unsecured load to not less than \$150 nor more than \$500.

## *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 2001, chapter 144 requires a state police officer to check the load on a vehicle to ensure that it is secure at the same time that the officer checks the weight of that motor vehicle. The fine for an unsecured load is not less than \$150 nor more than \$500.