

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 1382 **An Act to Permit Internet-based Communications to Facilitate the Purchase and Distribution of Wine** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAGGETT NORBERT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1382 proposed to permit the interstate shipment of wine ordered via the Internet. Under this bill, wine shipped into the State would be delivered to a wholesaler or certificate of approval holder licensed by the Department of Public Safety, Bureau of Liquor Enforcement. As proposed, the wholesale licensee or the certificate of approval holder could deliver the wine to an off-premises licensee. The off-premises licensee could deliver the wine to a person within the State who is at least 21 years of age as proposed by this bill.

LD 1389 **Resolve, to Study the Various Types of Ballots Used in the State** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MICHAEL		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1389 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This resolve proposed to establish a study commission to examine the types of ballots used in the State. Other ballot-related issues included in the study were:

1. The ease of use of ballots;
2. The accuracy of the ballots;
3. The methods and problems with counting ballots; and
4. The methods and problems involving recounts of ballots.

LD 1415 **An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Harness Racing** **PUBLIC 300
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CHIZMAR KNEELAND		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-441
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LD 1415 proposed to allow a new commercial harness horse racing track to open and participate in the various funds in the event an existing track goes out of business. The bill also proposed to provide for payment to a

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

racetrack in the State that provided a simulcast signal to other racetracks in the State for the purpose of supplementing the purses at the originating racetrack.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-441) struck the changes made to the definition of "commercial track" in the original bill. It retained the section of the original bill that specified that the horsemen's purse share of the harness racing handle on simulcast races is distributed to the track in the state where the race was actually run. The amendment states that the minimum payoff on a show wager must be 5% above the amount wagered. It also clarified the section of law that governs the off-track betting simulcast fund by stating that only exotic wagers are factored into the formula that apportions the fund.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 300 specifies that the horseman's purse share of the harness racing handle on simulcast races is distributed to the track where the race was actually run. It also states that the minimum payoff on a show wager must be 5% above the amount wagered.

Public Law 2001, chapter 300 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 29, 2001.

LD 1446 **An Act to Require Political Workers to Wear Name Tags and to Identify Themselves as Political Workers** **ONTP**

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

LD 1446 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill proposed to require political workers to wear name tags that read either: "Paid to Campaign" or "Paid Staff." This bill would have also required political workers to identify themselves as paid staff when making phone calls or otherwise contacting the public.

LD 1447 **An Act to Protect Off-track Betting Facilities** **PUBLIC 320**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MENDROS ROTUNDO	OTP-AM	H-481

LD 1447 proposed to repeal the limitation on off-track betting facilities that requires at least 150 race dates conducted at commercial tracks during the preceding year in order to license the facility.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-481) amended current law by permitting an off-track betting facility to simulcast interstate races if there were 150 live races conducted at the State's commercial tracks during the 2 preceding calendar years. Current law states that they can simulcast races only if the commercial tracks had 150 live races during the last calendar year.