

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
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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.

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 320 eases the limitation on off-track betting facilities that simulcast interstate races. Prior to enactment of this law, off-track betting facilities could simulcast interstate races only if there were 150 live races conducted at the state's commercial tracks during the previous calendar year. Public Law 2001, chapter 320 permits an off-track betting facility to simulcast interstate races if the state's commercial tracks conducted 150 live races during the preceding two calendar years.

LD 1460

An Act to Establish a Deadline for New Voter Registrations

ONTP

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

LD 1460 proposed to require that a person register to vote not later than 10 days before an election.

LD 1495

An Act to Establish the Maine Military Authority

**PUBLIC 374
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DOUGLASS BELANGER	OTP-AM	S-246

LD 1495 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposed to establish the Maine Military Authority under the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Military Bureau to operate the Loring Rebuild Center located at the former Loring Air Force Base.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-246) amended the concept draft and established the Maine Military Authority to operate and expand the existing Maine Readiness Sustainment Maintenance Center now located at the former Loring Air Force Base.

This amendment provided several transition provisions applicable to employees of the Maine Military Authority. The amendment provided that employees who are hired after the effective date of this law have the same rights and benefits as transferred employees, with the exception that transferred employees retain certain limited residual rights within the executive branch. The amendment provided that employees hired before and after the establishment of the authority are members of the state employee health plan and the regular state employee plan of the Maine State Retirement System.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 374 establishes the Maine Military Authority under the Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management. The Maine Military Authority will operate the existing Maine Readiness