

# 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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**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 1626**

**An Act to Make the Laws Affecting Certain Bridges Consistent with Federal Law**

**PUBLIC 314  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FISHER FERGUSON	OTP-AM	H-470

LD 1626 proposed to repeal the current laws governing responsibility for local bridges.

The bill proposed the following:

It placed capital and maintenance responsibility for minor spans that are on state aid highways on the Department of Transportation.

It placed capital and maintenance responsibility for all minor spans that are on town ways on municipalities.

It placed capital responsibility for most bridges on state aid highways and town ways on the Department of Transportation, excepting low use and redundant bridges.

It required that capital responsibility for low use or redundant bridges on town ways be shared by the Department of Transportation and the municipality on a 50%-50% basis, with a 1% valuation cap for low valuation municipalities.

It eliminated county funding for local bridges, except when acting for unorganized townships.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-470)** adds a mandate preamble to the bill.

## *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 2001, chapter 314 repeals the current laws governing responsibility for local bridges. It also does the following:

It places capital and maintenance responsibility for minor spans that are on state aid highways on the Department of Transportation;

It places capital and maintenance responsibility for all minor spans that are on town ways on municipalities;

It places capital responsibility for most bridges on state aid highways and town ways on the Department of Transportation, excepting low use and redundant bridges;

It requires that capital responsibility for low use or redundant bridges on town ways be shared by the Department of Transportation and the municipality on a 50%-50% basis, with a 1% valuation cap for low valuation municipalities; and

It eliminates county funding for local bridges, except when acting for unorganized townships.

Public Law 2001, chapter 314 is a State mandate and was enacted as an emergency measure on May 30, 2001.