

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals  
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

*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:**

*Todd Jorgensen, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis*

*13 State House Station*

*Augusta, ME 04333*

*(207) 287-1670*



**Maine State Legislature**  
**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013  
 Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
 Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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 1664**

**An Act to Amend Certain Motor Vehicle Laws**

**PUBLIC 360**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FISHER SAVAGE C	OTP-AM	H-355 H-574 FISHER

LD 1664 proposed certain changes in the motor vehicle statutes that include the following:

1. It defined scooter and imposed the same restrictions on this mode of transportation as on bicycles.
2. It authorized a law enforcement officer who has stopped a vehicle for another violation to demand and inspect the operator's record of duty status and medical examiner's certificate, if the operator is required to have this information.
3. It allowed a permit to be issued by a law enforcement agency to tow an unregistered vehicle using a tow dolly.
4. It allowed Department of Public Safety vehicles operated by motor carrier inspectors to be equipped with amber auxiliary lights.
5. It allowed vehicles designed to respond to a weapon of mass destruction to use a siren and to display and use a red light or combination red and white light.
6. It required an operator passing a stationary authorized emergency vehicle that is using an emergency light to pass that emergency vehicle in a nonadjacent lane, if possible, or at a careful and prudent speed.
7. It prohibited an operator from following within 150 feet of an authorized emergency vehicle, other than fire apparatus, that is using an emergency light.
8. It prohibited a vehicle from standing beside the left-hand side of a way at night in a manner so that its headlights project in the direction of oncoming traffic.
9. It created an exemption to the prohibition against riding in the back of a pickup truck for campers and hikers being transported in Baxter State Park.
10. It required the operator or the owner of a vehicle involved in a reportable accident to produce the vehicle and return the vehicle to the scene of an accident, if possible, at the request of the officer who is investigating the accident.
11. It resolved an inconsistency regarding confining a load of wood chips when the wood chips are transported.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-355)** proposed to clarify that a state police officer who is trained pursuant to the motor carrier safety rules of the motor carrier safety regulations of the United States Department of Transportation may demand and inspect the driver's record of duty status and medical examiner's certificate, if applicable. The amendment also imposed additional restrictions on motorized scooters.

**House Amendment "A" (H-574)** proposed to change an incorrect reference from fire inspector to fire investigator. It clarified that vehicles driven by capital security officers are authorized emergency vehicles, but these vehicles are prohibited from exceeding maximum speed limits. The amendment also clarified that vehicles designed to respond to a weapon of mass destruction are authorized emergency response vehicles.

## Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 2001, chapter 360 affects the motor vehicle statutes as follows.

1. It defines scooter and imposes the same restrictions on this mode of transportation as on bicycles. It also imposes additional restrictions on motorized scooters;
2. It allows a permit to be issued by a law enforcement agency to tow an unregistered vehicle using a tow dolly. Currently, a permit may be issued to tow by use of a service wrecker or tow bar;
3. It allows Department of Public Safety vehicles operated by motor carrier inspectors to be equipped with amber auxiliary lights;
4. It allows vehicles designed to respond to a weapon of mass destruction to use a siren and to display and use a red light or combination red and white light. It clarifies that these vehicles are authorized emergency response vehicles;
5. It requires an operator passing a stationary authorized emergency vehicle that is using an emergency light to pass that emergency vehicle in a nonadjacent lane, if possible, or at a careful and prudent speed;
6. It prohibits an operator from following within 150 feet of an authorized emergency vehicle, other than fire apparatus, that is using an emergency light;
7. It prohibits a vehicle from standing beside the left-hand side of a way at night in a manner so that its headlights project in the direction of oncoming traffic;
8. It creates an exemption to the prohibition against riding in the back of a pickup truck for campers and hikers being transported in Baxter State Park;
9. It requires the operator or the owner of a vehicle involved in a reportable accident to produce the vehicle and return the vehicle to the scene of an accident, if possible, at the request of the officer who is investigating the accident;
10. It resolves an inconsistency regarding confining a load of wood chips when the wood chips are transported;
11. It clarifies that a state police officer who is trained pursuant to the motor carrier safety rules of the motor carrier safety regulations of the United States Department of Transportation may demand and inspect the driver's record of duty status and medical examiner's certificate, if applicable;
12. It changes an incorrect reference from fire inspector to fire investigator; and
13. It clarifies that vehicles driven by capital security officers are authorized emergency vehicles, but these vehicles are prohibited from exceeding maximum speed limits.