

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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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).

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

to the conduct of elections. The bill also proposed to require polls to be opened no later than 7 a.m. on election days, except that in a municipality with a population of less than 100, the polls should be opened no later than 10 a.m.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-386), which was not adopted, proposed to strike all of the original bill except for the requirement that all polling places open no later than 7 a.m. As proposed by this amendment municipalities with a population of less than 100 could open their polls at 10 a.m. The amendment also would have added a mandate preamble and a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1704

An Act to Clarify the Activities of Membership Organizations in Maine

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCKEE	ONTP MAJ	
DOUGLASS	OTP MIN	

LD 1704 proposed to amend the laws governing campaign finance reports and finances to specify that compensation paid by a "membership organization" to an employee for certain campaign related activities would not be considered either a contribution or a political expenditure.

LD 1711

An Act to Amend the Maine Clean Election Laws

PUBLIC 465

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
EDMONDS	OTP-AM MAJ	S-308
TUTTLE	ONTP MIN	

LD 1711 proposed to expand the scope of reporting for independent electioneering expenditures and clarify which expenditures trigger matching funds under the Maine Clean Election Act. It proposed to extend the qualifying period from March 16th to April 15th for those intending to be participating candidates under the Maine Clean Election Act. It also proposed to strike language that states that the primary purpose of seed money is to enable a candidate to collect qualifying contributions. The bill proposed to permit participating candidates to pay the fees for money orders donated by contributors as long as those fees are reported. It also proposed that money from the Maine Clean Election Fund may be distributed to participating candidates in uncontested general elections in an amount equal to 1/3 of the amount distributed for contested races.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-308) removed the provisions in the original bill that created the definition of independent electioneering and established reporting requirements for independent electioneering expenditures. It changed the distribution amount that the original bill provided for Maine Clean Election Act candidates in uncontested general elections from 1/3 to 40% of the amount distributed to Maine Clean Election Act candidates in contested general elections. The amendment specified that rules of the commission governing qualifying contributions, certification of Maine Clean Election Act candidates, distribution of fund revenues to certified candidates and the disposition of equipment purchased with clean election funds are major substantive rules.