

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

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 465 provides for several changes to the Maine Clean Election Act. It expands the period in which a gubernatorial or legislative candidate may qualify as a participating candidate in the Maine Clean Election Act by one month. It also permits a candidate collecting the \$5 contributions required to qualify as a participating candidate in the Maine Clean Election Act to pay the fee for a money order that is a \$5 qualifying contribution.

This law provides funding for participating candidates who are uncontested in a general election. These candidates will receive 40% of the amount of the distribution from the Maine Clean Election Fund received by a participating candidate running for a seat in the same body of legislature who is opposed. It also requires the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to adopt rules regarding the disposition of property purchased with Maine Clean Election funds.

Finally, Public Law 2001, chapter 465 specifies that rules adopted by the commission regarding qualification and certification of a participating candidate, circumstances regarding vacancies, collection of revenues for the Clean Election Fund and distribution and disposition of revenues are major substantive rules.

LD 1714

An Act Relating to the Election of Candidates by the Instant Runoff Voting Method

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
TWOMEY

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1714 proposed to create the instant runoff voting method of determining winners in elections for President, Vice-President, United States Senator, United States Representative to Congress, Governor, state Senator and state Representative. As proposed, the method would simulate the ballot counts that would occur if all voters participated in a series of runoff elections and would allow a voter to rank candidates according to that voter's preferences. Each voter would have only one vote for each office, and the ballot count would be the same as would occur if voters participated in a series of runoff elections, with the weakest candidate eliminated after each round of counting. There would be an initial round of counting. If more than 2 candidates received votes after the initial round, the Secretary of State would conduct an instant runoff round. In this instant runoff round, the Secretary of State would eliminate the candidate with the fewest votes. A ballot that would rank this eliminated candidate as the highest-ranked candidate would be counted as a vote for the highest-ranked advancing candidate on that ballot. An advancing candidate would be a candidate who has not been eliminated. This process of counting votes and eliminating the candidate with the fewest votes would continue until 2 candidates remain. The candidate with the most votes would be declared the winner. For the presidential and vice-presidential elections, the instant runoff voting method would be conducted to determine winners for the entire State as well as in each congressional district.