

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Legal and Veterans' Affairs*

July 2003

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Maine State Legislature



Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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 arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i> | <i>Bills carried over to the 2nd Regular Session</i> |
| <i>CON RES XXX</i> | <i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i> |
| <i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> | <i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i> |
| <i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i> | <i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i> |
| <i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> | <i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i> |
| <i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> | <i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i> |
| <i>EMERGENCY</i> | <i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i> |
| <i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> | <i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i> |
| <i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> | <i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i> |
| <i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> | <i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i> |
| <i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i> | <i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i> |
| <i>INDEF PP</i> | <i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i> |
| <i>ONTP</i> | <i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i> |
| <i>OTP-ND</i> | <i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i> |
| <i>P&S XXX</i> | <i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i> |
| <i>PASSED</i> | <i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</i> |
| <i>PUBLIC XXX</i> | <i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i> |
| <i>RESOLVE XXX</i> | <i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i> |
| <i>UNSIGNED</i> | <i>Bill held by Governor</i> |
| <i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> | <i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i> |

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

David C. Elliott, Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

terminals. Host municipalities would receive their share in proportion to the amount of revenue that would be generated by video gaming terminals in their municipality.

Under this amendment, licenses would be issued for one year. The amendment proposed to reduce the fees proposed by the bill. It proposed that the license fee per terminal be \$500, and for wholesalers, manufacturers and operators, the fee would be \$3,500. Applicants for an initial license would be required to pay the actual costs of processing the application and performing the background investigation.

The amendment also proposed to specify that any rules put forth by the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations and the Chief of the State Police to administer and enforce the laws related to video gaming by nonprofits would be major substantive rules.

The amendment also proposed to add an appropriations and allocations section.

The amendment was the majority report when the bill was reported out of committee. The bill was subsequently sent back to the committee and carried over.

LD 1361

An Act To Support Harness Horse Racing in Maine, Equine Agriculture in Maine, Maine Agricultural Fairs and the General Fund of the State

UNSIGNED

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| GAGNON | OTP-AM MAJ | S-256 |
| CLARK | ONTP MIN | |

LD 1361 proposed to allow video lottery terminals to be placed at licensed commercial racetracks and licensed off-track wagering facilities in the State. Commercial tracks would be permitted to operate up to 1500 machines under this bill, while off-track betting facilities would be limited to 200. Terminal revenues would support the State's General Fund, harness racing purses, the Agricultural Fair Support Fund, the local municipalities where the terminals are located, the licensee and the prevention and treatment of problem gambling. Under this bill, enforcement and rule-making authority would be assigned to the Maine State Lottery Commission and the Maine State Police.

Committee Amendment "A" to (S-256) proposed to change the bill by striking a commercial racetrack as an entity eligible for a video lottery terminal license. If a commercial racetrack operates an off-track betting facility, that facility would be eligible to be licensed to operate video lottery terminals. Under the amendment, commercial racetracks would have first right of refusal for any new off-track betting facility license. Off-track betting facilities would still be eligible for video lottery terminal licenses under this amendment. Off-track betting facilities operated by commercial racetracks would be permitted to operate up to 600 machines while other off-track betting facilities would be limited to 200. Under this amendment, an off-track betting facility would be permitted to change its location within 10 miles of its current location with the consent of all off-track betting facilities and commercial racetracks within 50 miles. This amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.