

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

*Second Regular Session and
Second Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Criminal Justice and Public Safety*

May 2004

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Sen. Pamela Henderson Hatch
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Maine State Legislature

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

121st Maine Legislature Second Regular Session and Second Special 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/billsumm.htm).

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:

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
ONT P.....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP-ND	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PASSED.....	Joint Order passed in both bodies
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 that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is April 30, 2004; and non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Special Session is July 30, 2004. Four bills (LD's 1572, 1629, 1636 and 1637) that were considered at the First Special Session in August 2003 are also included in these summaries.

David C. Elliott, Director

Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 540 amends the law awarding restitution for the unlawful cutting of trees by specifying that, at the request of the prosecutor, the court may suspend all or a portion of the forfeiture adjudged for unlawfully cutting trees and apply it to restitution to the property owner of the unlawfully cut trees.

LD 1744

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Display of Fireworks and Indoor Pyrotechnics

PUBLIC 521

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUPLESSIE HATCH PH	OTP-AM	H-644

LD 1744 proposed to amend the law regarding pyrotechnics by:

1. Requiring a person to apply for a permit from the Commissioner of Public Safety 20 days before conducting a fireworks display, instead of the current 10 days;
2. Increasing the amount of public liability insurance that an applicant for a permit to conduct a fireworks display must have from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000;
3. Requiring the State Fire Marshal or the State Fire Marshal's designee to monitor all indoor pyrotechnic events;
4. Increasing certain penalties regarding the unlawful conduct of a fireworks display and failure to obtain a fireworks permit; and
5. Delineating license renewal procedures for fireworks technicians.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-644) proposed to remove the section of the bill that would increase penalties for conducting a fireworks display without a permit or in violation of a permit and proposed to add a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 521 amends the law regarding pyrotechnics as follows.

1. It requires a person to apply for a permit from the Commissioner of Public Safety 20 days before conducting a fireworks display, instead of 10 days before as currently required.
2. It increases the amount of public liability insurance that an applicant for a permit to conduct a fireworks display must have from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

3. It requires the State Fire Marshal or the State Fire Marshal's designee to monitor all indoor pyrotechnic events.
4. It delineates license renewal procedures for fireworks technicians.

LD 1762

**An Act To Amend the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of
1982**

PUBLIC 559

Sponsor(s)
BULL
HATCH PH

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-709

LD 1762 proposed to extend the deadline for the completion of the ambulance vehicle operators course requirements from January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2007, to correct inconsistencies regarding complaint procedures between the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982 and the Maine Administrative Procedure Act and to clarify the confidentiality provisions in the areas of quality assurance and investigations regarding licensees in the emergency medical services field.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-709) proposed to clarify that both investigative records and complaints become public records upon the conclusion of an investigation, unless they are confidential pursuant to another provision of law. The amendment also proposed to change from January 31, 2004 to January 31, 2005 the date by which the Commissioner of Public Safety must complete a study of the statewide emergency medical services system and report findings and suggested legislation to the Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 559 extends the deadline for the completion of the ambulance vehicle operators course requirements from January 1, 2005 to January 1, 2007, corrects inconsistencies regarding complaint procedures between the Maine Emergency Medical Services Act of 1982 and the Maine Administrative Procedure Act and clarifies the confidentiality provisions in the areas of quality assurance and investigations regarding licensees in the emergency medical services field. Public Law 2003, chapter 559 also clarifies that both investigative records and complaints become public records upon the conclusion of an investigation, unless they are confidential pursuant to another provision of law and changes from January 31, 2004 to January 31, 2005 the date by which the Commissioner of Public Safety must complete a study of the statewide emergency medical services system and report findings and suggested legislation to the Legislature.