

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and
First Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Legal and Veterans' Affairs*

August 2005

Staff:

*Danielle D. Fox, Legislative Analyst
Curtis Bentley, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670*

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Maine State Legislature

OFFICE OF POLICY & LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Room 215 Cross State Office Building
Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

122nd Legislature
First Regular Session and First Special Session

Summary of Legislation Considered by the Joint Standing Committees
August 2005

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. A subject index for each committee is included immediately before the bill summaries for that committee, and a numerical index by LD number is included 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 June 29, 2005; and for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session is September 17, 2005.

Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs

LD 882 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposed to clarify when expenditures need to be reported and improve the enforcement power of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices in order to ensure fair and timely distribution of matching funds under the Maine Clean Election Act.

LD 914

An Act To Prohibit Campaign Expenditures except during an Established Campaign Season

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CLARK	ONTP	

LD 914 proposed to establish a general election campaign period and prohibits advertising expenditures by candidates for Governor, United States Senate, United States House of Representatives, State Senate and State House of Representatives and political committees and political action committees for communications advocating the election or defeat in the general election of a clearly identified candidate except during that period. This bill did not propose to prohibit advertising expenditures for primary or special elections.

LD 929

An Act To Create Freedom of Citizen Information Regarding Ballot Questions

PUBLIC 356

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FAIRCLOTH GAGNON	OTP-AM	H-412 H-503 PATRICK

LD 929 proposed to do the following:

1. It would require the Secretary of State in conjunction with the Revisor of Statutes to draft a proposed ballot question summary for proposed direct initiative legislation and to post the summary on the Internet;
2. It would require that the proposed ballot question summary contain prescribed language informing the voter of the costs of ballot questions and that the petition circulator must offer the voter the opportunity to read and keep a copy of the summary before signing the petition;
3. It would require that the petition contain a header stating that each voter has a right to read the proposed ballot question summary before signing the petition;
4. It would require that the petition be divided into 2 columns for signatures to identify voters who read the proposed ballot question summary and signed the petition and those who did not read the summary but still signed the petition;
5. It would require the petition circulator to certify that all voters were given the opportunity to read the proposed ballot question summary before signing the petition and makes the falsification of such certification a crime;
6. It would require a person that is circulating a petition within 250 feet of a polling place to post a sign that reads "Not a Polling Place";