

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
Transportation*

August 2005

Staff:

Nicole A. Dube, Legislative Analyst

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

Lock Kiermaier, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Fiscal and Program Review
5 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1635*

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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 Transportation

Part F authorizes the transfer of the unallocated balance of the Highway Fund at the end of fiscal year 2004-05 to the Department of Transportation for capital program needs.

Part G expands the use of the state infrastructure bank within the Department of Transportation to allow revolving loans to be made to state agencies, quasi-state government agencies and public and private utility districts.

Part H establishes the funding ratio for the radio network debt service in fiscal year 2007-08.

Part I establishes a certain amount of nonlapsing funds for the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles at the end of fiscal year 2004-05 and allows the transfer of those funds from Personal Services to All Other.

Part J allocates funds for the Department of Transportation crew reclassification.

Part K establishes that the City of Portland is required to designate a light rail commuter corridor.

Part L deallocates funds for the State Police program within the Department of Public Safety.

Part M allocates funds for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the Department of Transportation.

Part N establishes that a sportsman registration plate may not be issued until certain financial requirements are met.

Public Law 2005, chapter 405 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 17, 2005.

LD 1396 **An Act To Create a Specialty License Plate for Members of the
Maine National Guard** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PLOWMAN	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1396 proposes to authorize the issuance of a special registration plate for past and present members of the Maine National Guard that will help fund the Maine Military Family Relief Fund.

This bill was carried over by H.P. 1203 to any special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature.

LD 1429 **An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Size, Placement and
Use of Certain On-premises Signs** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LERMAN	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

LD 1429 proposed to change the placement, size and height restrictions on certain freestanding, on-premise signs viewed from a controlled highway. This bill also proposed to eliminate restrictions on changeable signs.

LD 1430 **An Act To Establish Special License Plates To Honor Maine Residents Serving Overseas** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PILON SULLIVAN	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1430 proposes to authorize the issuance of a special registration plate for any service member in Maine who has served on or after September 11, 2001 that will help fund a special fund to assist family members of those serving overseas. The bill also proposes to authorize the issuance of a second special registration plate for those supporting our troops, with funds also going to a special fund to assist family members of those serving overseas. The bill further proposes to direct the Secretary of State to copyright the design of these plates and offer the designs to other states for a fee.

This bill was carried over by H.P. 1203 to any special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature.

LD 1453 **Resolve, To Improve Public Safety, Enhance Local Communities and Reduce Transportation Expenses** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PIOTTI WESTON	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1453 proposed to direct the Department of Transportation to establish a committee within the department to develop a management plan for heavyweight trucks traveling on Maine roads north of Augusta due to the 80,000-pound weight limit on Interstate 95.

LD 1463 **An Act To Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws** **PUBLIC 433
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MARLEY DAMON	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-600
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LD 1463 proposed to do the following:

1. Make technical changes to the Medical Advisory Board;
2. Clarify that the definition of "immediate family member" includes stepgrandparent, stepbrother, stepsister and stepchild;