

# 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*

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Maine State Legislature

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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 1388**                      **An Act To Amend Maine Election Law by Instituting a Statewide Vote-by-mail System**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GLYNN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1388 proposed to require a person requesting an absentee ballot to request it in person or to request it by mail. It would also clarify that the completed ballot be returned in person or by mail. This bill proposed eliminating 3rd-person involvement in the absentee ballot process.

**LD 1399**                      **An Act To Increase College Scholarships**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRENNAN CUMMINGS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1399 proposed to repeal the laws that establish the Fund to Stabilize Off-track Betting Facilities and require that 2% of the total gross slot machine income be deposited in this fund. The bill would provide that consistent with the intent of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 1036, subsection 2, paragraph I, half of the money that otherwise would be deposited in the Fund to Stabilize Off-track Betting Facilities would be deposited in the General Fund for the administrative expenses of the Gambling Control Board. The bill would also provide that the other half of this money would be divided equally between the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System for student scholarships.

**LD 1436**                      **An Act To Encourage a Vote-by-Mail System in Maine**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GLYNN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1436 proposed amending the current absentee voting system to enhance voting by mail as follows:

1. It would repeal the application process for absentee voting;
2. It would require municipal clerks to mail ballots and return envelopes to registered voters 30 days before an election;
3. It would require the municipal clerk to verify the addresses of registered voters prior to mailing out ballots as provided in rules;
4. It would allow persons who register after absentee ballots were mailed out to request a ballot by mail or receive one in person from the municipal clerk;
5. It would provide a process for requesting an absentee ballot if that person was not automatically mailed one by the clerk or if that person is a uniformed service voter or an overseas voter; and

*Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs*

6. It would repeal provisions that allow 3rd-party or immediate family participation in voting by absentee ballot.

**LD 1467**                    **An Act To Limit the Hours of Operation at Certain Gambling Establishments**                    **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CUMMINGS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1467 proposed to limit the daily hours of operation of a facility that operates slot machines to 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. the following day.

**LD 1485**                    **Resolve, To Publicize the Odds of Winning a State Lottery**                    **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BOWEN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1485 proposed requiring the State Liquor and Lottery Commission to adopt rules that would require the publication of the odds of winning the highest possible prize in a lottery game in all advertising and marketing for that lottery game.

**LD 1500**                    **An Act To Improve Campaign Financing and Reporting and the Administration of the Maine Clean Election Act**                    **PUBLIC 301**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GAGNON PATRICK		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-264
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LD 1500 proposed to make the following changes to the laws governing campaign financing and reporting and administration of the Maine Clean Election Act.

1. It would provide candidates, volunteers and political party committees more flexibility to pay for additional goods and services that would not be considered campaign contributions.
2. It would require disclosure of which persons paid for publicly accessible sites on the Internet and automated telephone calls promoting or opposing candidates.
3. It would require electronic filing of campaign finance reports by candidates, lobbyists, state party committees and political action committees unless they request an exception to the requirement.
4. It would require the filing of updated registration information by political action committees during each election year.