

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Judiciary*

July 2006

Members:

Sen. Barry J. Hobbins, Chair

Sen. Lynn Bromley

Sen. David R. Hastings III

Rep. Deborah L. Simpson, Chair

Rep. Sean Faircloth

Rep. Stan Gerzofsky

Rep. Marilyn E. Canavan

Rep. Mark E. Bryant

Rep. Michael Edward Dunn

Rep. Roger L. Sherman

Rep. Roderick W. Carr

Rep. Joan Bryant-Deschenes

Rep. Joan M. Nass

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Maine State Legislature



Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Office of Fiscal and Program Review

122nd Maine Legislature Second 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 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
ONTP.....	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 (Pocket Veto).....	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 August 23, 2006.

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

LD 1778

An Act To Protect Children from Contact with Convicted Sex Offenders

PUBLIC 567

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PERRY J		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-536
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LD 1778 proposed to require a court to consider persons with whom a parent lives in determining whether to grant primary residence or contact. It proposed to allow the court to prohibit residence or contact with a parent who lives with a convicted sex offender.

Committee Amendment “A” (S-536) proposed to revise the additional factor the court must consider in determining the best interests of the child when establishing a parental rights and responsibilities order. The new wording would ensure that the court will consider whether one of the parents is residing with a person who has been convicted of a sexual offense or sexual exploitation of a minor or a person who was adjudicated as having committed a sexual offense in a child protective proceeding in which the person was a party. The same would apply to a person who was adjudicated as a juvenile as having committed the same types of offenses. The amendment would not affect the judge's discretion in determining the best interests of the child.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 567 creates an additional factor the court must consider in determining the best interests of the child when establishing a parental rights and responsibilities order. The new wording ensures that the court will consider whether one of the parents is residing with a person who has been convicted of a sexual offense or sexual exploitation of a minor or a person who was adjudicated as having committed a sexual offense in a child protective proceeding in which the person was a party. The same applies to a person who was adjudicated as a juvenile as having committed the same types of offenses. Chapter 567 does not affect the judge's discretion in determining the best interests of the child.

LD 1800

An Act To Amend the Fees for Probate Filings

PUBLIC 654

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> WESTON		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-617
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LD 1800 proposed to raise the filing fees for probate filings and require that the recording fee to be paid to the register of deeds.

Committee Amendment “A” (S-617) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to raise certain Probate Court filing fees and set other fees at the same amount charged by the District Court and Superior Court for similar procedures.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 654 raises certain Probate Court filing fees and sets other fees at the same amount charged by the District Court and Superior Court for similar procedures.