

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Transportation*

July 2006

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Members:

*Sen. Dennis S. Damon, Chair
Sen. Bill Diamond
Sen. Christine R. Savage*

*Rep. Boyd P. Marley, Chair
Rep. Charles D. Fisher
Rep. Rosaire "Ross" Paradis, Jr.
Rep. Sonya G. Sampson
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Rep. Edward J. Mazurek
Rep. Terrence P. McKenney
Rep. Ronald F. Collins
Rep. William P. Browne
Rep. Douglas A. Thomas*

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 Transportation

LD 1849

An Act To Update the Charter of the Lewiston and Auburn Railroad Company

P & S 30

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SAMPSON		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1849 proposed to update the articles of incorporation of the Lewiston and Auburn Railroad Company.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 2005, chapter 30 updates the articles of incorporation of the Lewiston and Auburn Railroad Company.

LD 1866

An Act To Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws

PUBLIC 573

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> FISHER DIAMOND		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-849
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LD 1866 proposed to do the following:

1. Allow the display of a disabled veteran registration plate on a vehicle registered for up to 9,000 pounds; and
2. Eliminate the Secretary of State's discretion to accept a deposit of cash when a bond is filed.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-849) proposed to add the following provisions to the bill:

1. The amendment proposed to make the for-hire insurance requirements consistent with the provisions of Public Law 2005, chapter 399, which limited transit districts' tort liability to \$400,000.
2. The amendment proposed to allow the Secretary of State to operate customer service locations within approved budgetary limits, rather than limiting the branches that can exist to a specific number. The amendment proposed to enable the Secretary of State to authorize municipal agents to conduct transactions and charge fees on an ongoing basis when that transaction and the associated fee are not already provided in existing law.
3. The amendment proposed to direct the Secretary of State to review the existing statutory vision screening requirements to identify potential changes in law or other opportunities under existing law to increase the number of motorists eligible for online renewal services and to report with recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters no later than December 31, 2006.
4. The amendment also proposed to direct the Secretary of State to develop a plan for leveling out the currently uneven 6-year driver's license cycle to eliminate the variations in business activity and corresponding Highway Fund revenue.

Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

House Amendment "A" (H-891) proposed to require an applicant for a driver's license who is a nonimmigrant to provide the Secretary of State written proof, evidence or documentation that the applicant's presence in the United States is authorized under federal law.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 573 does the following:

1. It allows the display of a disabled veteran registration plate on a vehicle registered for up to 9,000 pounds;
2. It eliminates the Secretary of State's discretion to accept a deposit of cash when a bond is filed;
3. It makes the for-hire insurance requirements consistent with the provisions of Public Law 2005, chapter 399, which limited transit districts' tort liability to \$400,000;
4. It allows the Secretary of State to operate customer service locations within approved budgetary limits, rather than limiting the branches that can exist to a specific number. The law enables the Secretary of State to authorize municipal agents to conduct transactions and charge fees on an ongoing basis when that transaction and the associated fee are not already provided in existing law;
5. It directs the Secretary of State to review the existing statutory vision screening requirements to identify potential changes in law or other opportunities under existing law to increase the number of motorists eligible for online renewal services and to report with recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters no later than December 31, 2006; and
6. It directs the Secretary of State to develop a plan for leveling out the currently uneven 6-year driver's license cycle to eliminate the variations in business activity and corresponding Highway Fund revenue.

LD 1869

**An Act To Allow Businesses To Place a Sign at the Topsham Mall
Exit on Interstate 295**

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
CROSBY

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1869 proposed to allow businesses to pay the cost to put a sign at the Topsham exits on Interstate 295.