

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
TRANSPORTATION**

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

Sen. William B. O'Gara, Chair

Sen. John T. Jenkins

Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy

Rep. Joseph D. Driscoll, Chair

Rep. Gerald N. Bouffard

Rep. Paul Chartrand

Rep. Charles D. Fisher

Rep. Gary J. Wheeler

Rep. David A. Lindahl

Rep. Dean F. Clukey

Rep. Steven M. Joyce

Rep. Christine R. Savage

Rep. Robert J. Winglass

OPLA Staff:

John G. Kelley, Legislative Analyst

Jill Ippoliti, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207)287-1670



Maine State Legislature

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
August 1997**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. 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 handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically 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. 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).

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*
- 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 26, 1997 and September 19, 1997 for the First Special Session.

David E. Boulter, Director

Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

LD 448 **Resolve, to Name the Entrances to the Donald V. Carter Bridge Connecting Winslow and Waterville the "Purple Heart Highway"** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> VIGUE CAREY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
-------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------	--	---------------------------

LD 448 proposed to name the road that crosses the Donald V. Carter Bridge from China Road in Winslow to Kennedy Memorial Drive in Waterville the "Purple Heart Highway."

LD 451 **An Act to Expand the Number of Lights Firefighters May Use on Their Cars** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JONES SA		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
-------------------------------	--	---------------------------------	--	---------------------------

LD 451 proposed to permit an active member of a municipal or volunteer fire department, when authorized, to use any type of flashing signal light on a vehicle when en route to or at the scene of a fire or other emergency.

LD 489 **An Act Relative to the Improvement of the Maine Turnpike Authority** **ONTP**

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

LD 489 proposed to increase the amount of bonds the Maine Turnpike Authority may issue in connection with a widening of the turnpike from Exit 1 to Exit 6-A, if all or a portion of a project is approved under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, sections 1965 and 1965-A. The bill also proposed to clarify the Maine Turnpike Authority's obligations with respect to other aspects of transportation planning that pertain to such a project.

LD 525 **An Act to Increase the Availability and Reduce the Cost of Escorts for Over-limit Movements on the State's Roads** **PUBLIC 144 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MAYO SMALL		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-162
------------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------	--	------------------------------------

LD 525 proposed that a county sheriff or municipal police officer may serve as an escort for certain oversized vehicles. Current law requires a State Police escort. The bill also proposed that a county sheriff or municipal police department may establish fees for escorts and that a permittee may select the law enforcement agency to provide the escort.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-162) proposed allowing a county sheriff or municipal police department to provide an escort for certain oversized vehicles for which a police escort is required. It also proposed a requirement that any escort for these oversized vehicles on the interstate highway system be provided by the State Police.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 144 permits a county sheriff or municipal police department to provide an escort for certain oversized vehicles for which a police escort is required. It also requires any escort for these oversized vehicles on the interstate highway system be provided by the State Police.

LD 544 **An Act Regarding the Penalty for Passing a Stopped School Bus** **ONTP**

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

LD 544 proposed to remove the mandatory requirement that a person's driver's license be suspended for 30 days for the second violation of passing a stopped school bus within three years of the first offense.

LD 595 **An Act to Clarify the State's Authority to Acquire and Preserve Rail Corridors for Use as Transportation Corridors** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BOUFFARD FERGUSON		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
---	--	---------------------------------	--	---------------------------

LD 595 proposed to clarify the Department of Transportation's authority to acquire railroad lines and railroad property not only for rail purposes but for transportation purposes.

LD 617 **An Act to Prohibit Passing an Emergency Vehicle Using Its Lights and Siren** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TUTTLE JENKINS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
--	--	---------------------------------	--	---------------------------

LD 617 proposed to make it a Class E crime to pass an emergency vehicle that is flashing lights and using a siren.