

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY**

**JULY 1997**

***MEMBERS:***

*Sen. Susan W. Longley, Chair*

*Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III*

*Sen. John W. Benoit*

*Rep. Richard H. Thompson, Chair*

*Rep. Elizabeth Watson*

*Rep. David Etnier*

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*Rep. G. Paul Waterhouse*

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**Maine State Legislature**

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**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](http://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 571**

**An Act to Clarify the Effect of Failure to Provide Notice of Filing of a Judgment Lien**

**PUBLIC 20**

Sponsor(s)  
FISK

Committee Report  
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 571 proposed to clarify the effect of the judgment creditor's failure to provide timely notice of the filing of the judgment lien.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 20 clarifies that a judgment creditor's failure to provide a timely notice of the filing of a judgment lien results in the lien losing its status as a perfected security interest against property of the judgment debtor and that the lien also loses its priority vis-à-vis other creditors of the judgment debtor.

**LD 582**

**An Act to Amend the Procedures for Medical Malpractice Screenings**

**CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)  
JABAR

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 582 proposes to limit medical malpractice screening panels to a review of professional negligence claims solely for the purpose of determining whether a claim is frivolous, rather than permitting panels to determine, as under current law, whether professional negligence occurred. The bill also proposes to change the current law's confidentiality provisions to allow testimony and other evidence presented to screening panels to be admitted in a subsequent court action based on the claim of professional negligence. This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.

**LD 587**

**An Act to Provide Greater Public Notice of Complaints against Attorneys**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
STANLEY

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 587 proposed that the Board of Overseers of the Bar be required to publish a notice of a complaint against an attorney in a newspaper in the area in which the attorney primarily practices.