

# 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  
LEGAL AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**JULY 1997**

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Sen. Richard J. Carey  
Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr.***

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Rep. Joseph H. Bigl  
Rep. Duane J. Belanger***



**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 824****An Act to Allow Limited Partnerships between Brewers and Wholesalers**

ONTP

Sponsor(s)  
FERGUSONCommittee Report  
ONTPAmendments Adopted

LD 824 proposed to allow brewers and wholesalers to form limited partnerships in order for the brewer to be the limited partner and the wholesaler to be the general partner. Consistent with the Maine Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act, only the general partner would be involved in day-to-day management. The bill also proposed a 10-year maximum term for any limited partnership established pursuant to this bill.

**LD 845****An Act to Prohibit the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate from Participating in Political Activities while in Office**

ONTP

Sponsor(s)  
CAMPBELL  
GOLDTHWAITCommittee Report  
ONTPAmendments Adopted

LD 845 proposed to prohibit the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate from participating in political activities while in office.

**LD 850****An Act to Reduce the Time Political Signs May Be Placed in the Public Right-of-Way**

ONTP

Sponsor(s)  
CIANCHETTECommittee Report  
ONTPAmendments Adopted

LD 850 proposed to further restrict the placement of political election signs in a right-of-way from the current law of not more than six weeks before the election to not more than three weeks before the election.

**LD 864****RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Clarify Voting Rights**

CON RES 1

Sponsor(s)  
BRENNAN  
MILLSCommittee Report  
OTP-AMAmendments Adopted  
H-129

LD 864 proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to remove language providing that persons under guardianship for reasons of mental illness are disqualified from voting and require that the proposed change be put out to referendum at the next statewide election.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-129)** added a fiscal note to the resolution.