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
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JULY 1997

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Sen. Anne M. Rand
Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon

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Staff:
Carrie C. McFadden, Legislative Analyst

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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).

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 ToPass 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

Certification Reciprocity Consortium or a similar organization recognizes the person as having met state licensing requirements for substance abuse counselors.

LD 1151   **An Act to Require the Use of Safety Bars on Chairlifts**   **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
BULL	ONTP	
JENKINS		

LD 1151 proposed to require skiers to use safety devices on ski lifts, if the lifts are equipped with safety devices.

LD 1171   **An Act to Better Inform Car Repair Customers**   **PUBLIC 221**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
RAND	OTP-AM	S-160

A confusing aspect of any car repair for consumers is whether the bill is based on actual labor hours or a flat-rate manual's estimate of how much time such a repair should take. LD 1171 proposed to provide customers with greater information about flat-rate billing and to help them comparison shop for the best price. It is based on findings set forth in the 1995 National Association of Attorneys General Auto Repair Task Force Report.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-160) proposed to clarify the information that must be provided by the car repair shop to the customer for greater awareness about billing procedures in order to comparison shop.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 221 provides customers with greater information about flat-rate billing to help them comparison shop for the best auto repair price. It is based on findings set forth in the 1995 National Association of Attorneys General Auto Repair Task Force Report.

LD 1177   **An Act to Amend the Charter of the Northern Maine Development Commission, Inc.**   **ONTP**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
KIEFFER	ONTP	

LD 1177 proposed to substantially amend the charter of the Northern Maine Development Commission, Inc. by establishing the General Assembly as the governing body of the commission. The bill would also provide that future revisions or amendments to the charter or a repeal of the charter may be accomplished by majority vote of the General Assembly if two thirds of the General Assembly had voted to submit proposed charter changes to a written ballot. This bill was withdrawn by the sponsor as Private & Special Law 1997, chapter 13 repealed Private & Special Law 1989, chapter 89, which this bill proposed to amend.