

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

Rep. Joseph M. Jabar, Sr.

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Rep. David R. Madore

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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).

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

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LONGLEY		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1272 proposed to require the Maine Criminal Justice Information System Policy Board to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters no later than January 1st of each year concerning the methods devised to keep accurate, updated records of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence, to ensure enforcement of 18 United States Code, Section 922 (1996).

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 194 requires the Maine Criminal Justice Information System Policy Board to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters no later than January 1st of each year concerning the methods devised to keep accurate, updated records of misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence, to ensure enforcement of 18 United States Code, Section 922 (1996).

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BAKER J FERGUSON		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-465
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LD 1283 proposed to require the court to terminate the parental rights of a person convicted of certain sexual offenses involving a minor.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-465) proposed to replace the bill by providing for the termination of parental rights and responsibilities of a parent when a parent is convicted of a crime involving sexual intercourse that resulted in the conception of the child.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 363 creates a process under which the parental rights of a parent may be terminated if that parent is convicted of a crime involving sexual intercourse that resulted in the conception of the child.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MURRAY		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-150
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LD 1296 proposed to amend the Probate Code to eliminate interest on claims of creditors of insolvent estates to reduce complications.