

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
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

JULY 1997

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Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait

Sen. James D. Libby

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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

Public Law 1997, chapter 367 adds an option for investment of certain municipal trust funds, to allow investment in mutual funds with portfolios of other than United States government bonds and repurchase agreements backed by United States bonds. This option applies only if the trust fund is governed by the United States Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3), municipal officers approve the investment at a public meeting, no more than 50% of the assets of the trust are invested in such mutual funds and the investments are diversified.

LD 1387 **Resolve, to Authorize the Lincoln County Commissioners to Borrow Not More Than \$400,000 to Build the Lincoln County Communications Center** **RESOLVE 32 EMERGENCY**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| SPEAR | OTP-AM | H-268 |

LD 1387 proposed to authorize the Lincoln County commissioners to borrow not more than \$600,000 for construction of a communications center for the communication needs of Lincoln County, such as the 9-1-1 system.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-268) proposed to reduce from \$600,000 to \$400,000 the amount the Lincoln County Commissioners are authorized to borrow to build a communications center for Lincoln County.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 32 authorizes the Lincoln County commissioners to borrow up to \$400,000 for construction of a communication center for Lincoln County. Resolve 1997, chapter 32 was passed as an emergency measure effective May 20, 1997.

LD 1391 **An Act to Reestablish the State Compensation Commission** **PUBLIC 506**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|--|
| TUTTLE DAGGETT | OTP-AM | H-309 H-440 KONTOS S-383 MICHAUD |

LD 1391 proposed to reestablish the State Compensation Commission, consisting of five members appointed from the public. The bill proposed that, every two years, the commission submit to the Legislature its recommendations regarding compensation for Legislators, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the State Auditor.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-309) proposed to clarify that the appointments may not be from the same political party and to require the State Compensation Commission to issue its initial report no later than January 15, 1998. The amendment also added an appropriation section and fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-383) proposed to require the presiding officers to make their appointments within 15 days of the effective date of the bill and to require the chair of the Legislative

Council to convene the first meeting after receiving notice of the appointments. The amendment also required the commission to request any necessary staff assistance from the Legislative Council.

House Amendment "A" (S-440) required that the members appointed by the presiding officers must be made within 15 days of the effective date, and provides for staff assistance to the commission.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 506 reestablishes the State Compensation Commission, which must make a recommendation regarding compensation for Legislators and constitutional officers to the Legislature every two years, except that the first report must be submitted by January 15, 1998.

LD 1408 An Act to Redistrict Knox County and Provide for 5 County Commissioners PUBLIC 510

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| SAVAGE | OTP-AM | H-475 S-356 MICHAUD |

LD 1408 proposed to establish two new county commissioner districts in Knox County increasing the number of commissioner districts to five. Commissioners for the two new districts would be elected in 1998.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-475) replaced the bill. The amendment proposed that the question of whether to increase the number of Knox County commissioner districts be submitted to the voters of the county in November 1997. If the increase from the current three districts were approved by the voters, the amendment directed the next apportionment committee to redistrict Knox County into five county commissioner districts and delays implementation of the change until completion of the redistricting by the apportionment commission in 2005. The amendment also added a fiscal note and a mandate preamble to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-356) shifted the cost to prepare and furnish ballots for the countywide referendum from the Secretary of State to Knox County.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 510 submits the question of whether the number of Knox County commissioners should be increased from three to five to the voters of the county in November 1997. If approved by the voters, the next regularly convened apportionment committee would redistrict Knox County into five county commissioner districts and implementation of the increase would take place following that redistricting.