

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

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Anne M. Rand

Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon

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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:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill carried over to Second Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

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

3. Examination standards for passing are outlined for certification as a public accountant.
4. Beginning in 2002, the experience requirements for licensure for all applicants, including those applicants possessing a masters degree, are amended to include the use of accounting or auditing skills for two years under the direction of a licensee.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 265 amends the public accountancy laws in the following ways.

1. Beginning in 2002, the educational requirements to sit for the certified public accountancy examination are raised to at least 150 semester hours to include basic courses in accounting and auditing.
2. The examination content is clarified to include testing the applicant’s knowledge of accounting, auditing and other related subjects that the Board of Accountancy may set by rule. It allows the board to use all or any part of the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination.
3. Examination standards for passing are outlined for certification as a certified public accountant.
4. Beginning in 2002, the experience requirements for licensure for all applicants, including those applicants possessing a masters degree, are amended to include the use of accounting or auditing skills for two years under the direction of a licensee.

LD 1405 **An Act to License Timber Harvesters and Deter Timber Trespassing** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DESMOND	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1405 proposes requiring timber harvesters to obtain a license from the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Forestry. It provides for the revocation of a license and makes a person ineligible for a license for a period of three years if that person unlawfully cuts trees on another person's land.

LD 1427 **An Act to Create Quality Employment and Business Ownership Opportunities for Social Assistance Recipients** **PUBLIC 484 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PINGREE	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-342
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LD 1427 proposed to establish the Quality Employment Opportunities and Business Ownership Opportunities program, a demonstration project of the Department of Human Services and the Department of Economic and Community Development. Grants would be made by the departments to eligible organizations under the program.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-342) proposed to establish the Quality Employment and Business Ownership Opportunities program. The amendment would add an emergency preamble and emergency clause and restrict eligible participants to persons receiving TANF. It would add the Department of Labor to the cooperating departments and reduce the time for the demonstration project to 2 years. It would require the departments and grantees to provide a progress report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development by March 15, 1998 and a final report, including recommendations on continuation of the program, by January 15, 2000. It would add a fiscal note and provide funding of \$300,000 per year for the grant program. The law takes effect June 11, 1997.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 484 comprises the provisions of the bill and the committee amendment. It establishes a 2-year pilot project, the Quality Employment and Business Ownership Opportunities program to aid persons receiving TANF assistance in obtaining employment. It requires an interim report by 3/15/98 and a final report by 1/1/2000.

LD 1430 An Act to Regulate Professional Loggers CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KILKELLY	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1430 proposes establishing the Maine State Board of Licensure for Professional Loggers as the regulatory body for the profession. The bill proposes qualifications for licensure including a two-year internship under the guidance of a licensed logger unless the person has graduated from an approved two-year curriculum and has completed at least two years of experience in logging work. Applicants would also have to pass a written examination approved by the board. The annual licensing fee would be determined by the board, but could not exceed \$55 annually.

Pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12015, subsection 3, an evaluation of the need for regulation of loggers must be completed prior to enactment of this bill.

LD 1431 Resolve, to Establish the Sister State Program RESOLVE 25

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JENKINS	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1431 proposed to direct the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council to identify other states and countries with similar cultural or business interests with which a reciprocal "sister state" agreement would benefit the State. The Council would report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by March 1, 1998.

Enacted law summary