

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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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

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

Resolve 1997, chapter 25 directs 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 must report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by March 1, 1998.

LD 1437 Resolve, to Study the State's Regional Service Center Communities RESOLVE 78

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JENKINS		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-159
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LD 1437 proposed to establish the Task Force on Regional Service Centers to study the feasibility of and mechanisms for establishing regional service centers throughout the State to encourage political subdivisions of the State to cooperate in business, economy, law enforcement, education and other areas. The task force would seek advice from interested officials and parties and report back to the Legislature by January 1, 1998.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-159) proposed to replace the resolve and establish the Task Force on Regional Service Center Communities to recommend ways to strengthen the State's principal service center communities, including their roles as job creators and regional service providers, and to study the feasibility of and mechanisms to encourage these communities and other political subdivisions of the State to cooperate in business, economy, law enforcement, education and other areas. The task force is directed to submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 1998.

Enacted law summary

Resolves 1997, chapter 78 establishes the Task Force on Regional Service Center Communities to recommend ways to strengthen the State's principal service center communities, including their roles as job creators and regional service providers, and to study the feasibility of and mechanisms to encourage these communities and other political subdivisions of the State to cooperate in business, economy, law enforcement, education and other areas. The task force is directed to submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 1998.

LD 1452 An Act to Establish the Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for All Regions of the State P & S 51

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JOY		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-504 S-400 MICHAUD
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LD 1452 proposed to impose a moratorium on construction and development in southern Maine counties for two years, or for a lesser period of time if laws are enacted before then to provide for equal economic development opportunity for all of Maine. The bill proposed to create the Board for Equal Economic Development Opportunity to recommend laws to provide for equal economic opportunity and to study the feasibility of creating two states out of the current Maine territory.