

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MAY 1998

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*Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon*

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees**  
**May 1998**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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](http://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:

- 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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

medical field, that the fire chief board member position is replaced by a fire services representative position, and that one of the nonpublic board members must also be a volunteer emergency medical services provider.

**LD 1483**

**An Act to Register Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing**

**PUBLIC 749**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TREAT	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-589
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LD 1483, which was carried over from the First Session, proposed to require licensure of interpreters for the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-589)** This amendment proposed to replace the bill by establishing a system of registration of interpreters for the deaf and hard-of-hearing to be carried out by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.

The amendment also proposed to:

1. Create a technical review committee to study the issue of how interpreters should be further regulated.
2. Require the Department of Education to report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business and economic development matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs with respect to interpreter issues within the school system, as well as interpreter training programs.
3. Require the Division of Deafness to notify the public and state agencies with regard to the regulatory changes encompassed by this amendment.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 749 establishes a system of registration of interpreters for the deaf and hard-of-hearing to be carried out by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. After January 1, 1999, a person may not provide interpreting services for compensation unless registered according to the terms of this chapter.

The enacted law also:

1. Creates a technical review committee to study the issue of how interpreters should be further regulated.
2. Requires the Department of Education to report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over business and economic development matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs with respect to interpreter issues within the school system, as well as interpreter training programs.
3. Requires the Division of Deafness to notify the public and state agencies with regard to the regulatory changes encompassed by this amendment.