

# 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

*MEMBERS:*

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*Sen. Anne M. Rand*

*Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon*

*Rep. Marc J. Vigue, Chair*

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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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KILKELLY WATSON	OTP-AM	S-561 H-1049 VIGUE

LD 1525, which was carried over from the First Session, proposed to repeal the two-tier certification or registration structure for massage therapists and proposed to require that all persons who profess to be a massage therapist or massage practitioner be licensed. The bill proposed that the licensure of massage therapists be under the authority of the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers. Provisions are outlined for licensure of new and existing massage practitioners.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-561)** proposed to modify the licensure of massage therapists by removing oversight and involvement with the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers and by providing for license administration by the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation. This amendment further proposed that after December 31, 2001 only licensed massage therapists may use the title "massage therapist" or the term "massage therapy" to identify the nature of their services. The amendment extends to December 31, 2001 the time during which currently registered massage practitioners may use the title "registered massage therapist" or demonstrate that they have the necessary experience or education to become licensed massage therapists.

**House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1049)** proposed to allocate to the Maine Revised Statutes a unallocated provision of Committee Amendment "A" regarding the application of disciplinary measures to registered massage practitioners.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 681 provides that after December 31, 2001, only licensed massage therapists may use the title "massage therapist" or the term "massage therapy" to identify the nature of their services. Massage practitioners who are presently registered may use the title of "registered massage practitioner" until December 31, 2001. The law also sets out guidelines for registered massage practitioners to obtain licensure after December 31, 2001. Finally, the law provides that the Office of Licensing and Registration shall administer licensure, with assistance from an advisory council.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BUCK RAND	OTP-AM	H-958

LD 1580, which was carried over from the First Session, proposed to increase oversight of osteopathic and allopathic doctors licensed to practice in Maine. The bill increases consumer representation from three to five on the Board of Osteopathic Licensure and from three to six on the Board of Licensure in Medicine. To strengthen physician oversight, the bill proposed to create a position of ombudsman to serve as an advocate for consumers of medical care who have filed complaints against physicians.