

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

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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

**An Act to Amend the Composition of the Information Services
Policy Board and Establish a Task Force on Information
Technology in the Public Sector**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E	OTP-AM	H-357 S-387 MICHAUD

LD 1589 proposed to direct the Maine Science and Technology Foundation to establish a clearinghouse for information regarding state information and information technology that would assist local governments, schools, libraries and institutions of higher education in accessing public information residing on computerized data bases of state agencies. The clearinghouse would develop standards for state agency data bases that would allow increased access to public information and listings of available information. The bill also proposed to amend the composition of the Information Services Policy Board by adding representatives of the University of Maine System and the Maine Technical College System as advisory members. Addition of these members would ensure that the computer information needs of state institutions of higher education are known and would encourage the sharing of computerized information and information technologies between educational institutions and agencies of State Government.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-357) proposed to strike the establishment of a clearinghouse for state information and technology and establish a task force to look at information technology in the public sector. The purpose of the task force was to study the ways in which information regarding the State and its agencies was being accessed and to ensure that maximum access was achievable by utilizing compatible technologies. The task force would report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court by November 15, 1998.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-387) proposed to change the reporting date and strike the fiscal year 1998-99 appropriation.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 554 amends the composition of the Information Services Policy Board by adding representatives of the University of Maine System and the Maine Technical College System as advisory members. The addition of these members is to ensure that the computer information needs of state institutions of higher education are known and to encourage the sharing of computerized information and information technologies between educational institutions and agencies of State Government. Public Law 1997, chapter 554 establishes a task force to look at information technology in the public sector. The purpose of the task force is to study the ways in which information regarding the State and its agencies is being accessed and to ensure that maximum access is achievable by utilizing compatible technologies. The task force is to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the Executive Director of the Legislative Council and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court by January 1, 1998.