

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

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:

Sen. John T. Jenkins, Chair

Sen. Anne M. Rand

Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon

Rep. Marc J. Vigue, Chair

Rep. Rosaire J. Sirois

Rep. Richard R. Farnsworth

Rep. Thomas P. Shannon

Rep. Thomas J. Wright

Rep. Robert A. Cameron

Rep. Thomas W. Murphy, Jr.

Rep. William E. Bodwell, II

Rep. Jay MacDougall

Rep. Adam Mack

Staff:

Carrie C. McFadden, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*



Maine State Legislature

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-283) was presented on behalf of the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading to make a technical correction.

Senate Amendment "D" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-405) proposed to specify that the Maine Franco-American Center at the University of Maine would provide staff assistance for the study, clarified the number of authorized meetings and revised the appropriation section.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 83 establishes the Commission to Study the Development of Maine's Franco-American Resource, which will analyze the Franco-American community for demographic trends, employment patterns and interrelationships among cultural, civic, business and community organizations throughout the State. It also will study opportunities with international trade and ways to improve markets. The Maine Franco-American Center at the University of Maine will provide staff assistance for the study and the Commission will report its findings and recommendations by December 1, 1997.

This resolve was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 12, 1997.

LD 1609 An Act Regarding Information Provided to Pharmaceutical Companies ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BRENNAN	ONTP MAJ	
RAND	OTP MIN	

LD 1609 proposed to prohibit pharmacists, health maintenance organizations, insurance companies or pharmaceutical wholesalers from giving information used for marketing purposes to drug companies about the prescribing practices of physicians and others who can lawfully prescribe drugs.

LD 1616 An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating Occupational Therapy Practice PUBLIC 294

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER	OTP-AM	H-282

LD 1616 proposed to incorporate the change of name of the national agency that certifies and tests occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants; incorporate the name change of the agency that accredits occupational therapy educational programs and change related information, including definitions; correct minor language inconsistencies to improve clarity; clarify the law as it relates to temporary licensees; remove obsolete information regarding examination of occupational therapists; clarify the requirements for foreign-trained therapists to become licensed; and incorporate minor technical changes affected by changes to the national agency for certification of therapists.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-282) proposed to replace the definitions of certified occupational therapy assistant and occupational therapist in the bill. The new definitions removed the requirement that an individual be

in "good standing" with the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy. This amendment also allowed the board to renew a temporary license one time for a person who had failed the examination.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 294 amends the laws regulating occupational therapy practice in the following ways:

1. Incorporates the change of name of the national agency that certifies and tests occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants;
2. Incorporates the name change of the agency that accredits occupational therapy educational programs and changes related information, including definitions. The definitions of certified occupational therapy assistant and occupational therapist do not require that an individual be in "good standing" with the National Board of Certification in Occupational Therapy;
3. Clarifies the law as it relates to temporary licensees and allows the board to renew a temporary license one time for a person who has failed the examination;
4. Removes obsolete information regarding examination of occupational therapists; and
5. Clarifies the requirements for foreign-trained therapists to become licensed.

LD 1645 An Act to Establish the Maine Franco-American Center in Bangor ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BROOKS PARADIS	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
--	---------------------------------	---------------------------

LD 1645 proposed to establish the Maine Franco-American Center in Bangor to increase the State's trade with French-speaking countries.

**LD 1648 An Act to Increase Home Ownership PUBLIC 491
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MITCHELL E AMERO	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-281
--	-----------------------------------	------------------------------------

LD 1648 proposed to increase the amount of bonds that the Maine State Housing Authority may issue that are enhanced by the State's moral obligation. These bonds are primarily used for the authority's first time home buyer program and secured by first mortgages. The State's moral obligation is not a legal debt of the State, but there is an expectation that the State would cure a default and that expectation results in reduced interest rates.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-281) proposed to add an emergency preamble, an emergency clause and a fiscal note to the bill.