

# 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  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**JULY 1997**

***MEMBERS:***

***Sen. Judy Paradis, Chair***

***Sen. Susan W. Longley***

***Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell***

***Rep. J. Elizabeth Mitchell, Chair***

***Rep. Joseph E. Brooks***

***Rep. Elaine Fuller***

***Rep. Thomas J. Kane***

***Rep. Wendy Pieh***

***Rep. Michael W. Quint***

***Rep. Glenys P. Lovett***

***Rep. Jeffery G. Joyner***

***Rep. Tarren R. Bragdon***

***Rep. Lois A. Snowe-Mello***

***Staff:***

***Jane Orbeton, 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](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:

- 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

**LD 1700**

**An Act to Simplify the Process for Applying for State Services for People with Disabilities**

**INDEF PP**

Sponsor(s)  
WATSON  
HARRIMAN

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted

LD 1700 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to establish a central clearinghouse of information concerning all state or federal assistance programs for providing services to people with disabilities and to create and make available a single application form to be used by the department to determine an applicant's eligibility for any state or federal assistance program.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-702)** proposed to replace the bill. It would have required the State to develop an automated service delivery system for providing information on services available to persons with disabilities, including information on eligibility for state and, to the extent possible, federal assistance programs by July 1, 2000. The amendment would have required the system to guard consumer confidentiality and to provide primary service coordinators to work with the consumers and providers of services and added a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 1701**

**An Act to Promote Economic Independence for Low-income Families**

**PUBLIC 284**

Sponsor(s)  
GREEN  
PARADIS

Committee Report  
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1701 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to contract with a nonprofit corporation such as Women Unlimited to provide nontraditional job training and placement services for persons receiving assistance under the temporary assistance to needy families program.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 284 comprises the provisions of the bill. It requires the Department of Human Services to contract for non-traditional job training and placement services for TANF recipients.

**LD 1703**

**An Act to Prohibit Smoking in Restaurants**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
ETNIER  
MILLS

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1703 proposed to include a restaurant in the definition of "public place" where smoking is prohibited. Smoking would have been permitted in a Class A lounge or in a separate, enclosed area of a restaurant that is used primarily for the service of alcoholic beverages.

See also LD 413.

**LD 1706**                      **An Act to Review Registration of Certified Nursing Assistants**                      **PUBLIC 465**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRUNO		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
----------------------------	--	--------------------------------	--	---------------------------

LD 1706 proposed to require a listed nursing assistant's name on the CNA Registry to be annotated with any criminal convictions except those Class D and Class E convictions over 10 years old that did not involve as a victim a patient, client or resident of a health care entity. The bill would require the department to verify the credentials and training of all certified nursing assistants and all health care institutions to check with the registry before hiring any certified nursing assistants.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 465 requires annotation on the CNA registry of criminal convictions except old Class D and E convictions not pertinent to CNA employment. It requires DHS to verify the credentials and trainings of all CNAs and required health care facilities to check the CNA registry prior to hiring.

**LD 1715**                      **An Act to Conform the State Revolving Loan Fund for Drinking Water with the 1996 Amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act**                      **PUBLIC 555  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MITCHELL E		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-522
---------------------------------	--	-----------------------------------	--	------------------------------------

LD 1715 proposed to conform the state revolving loan fund with the 1996 amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-522)** proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 555 comprises the provisions of the bill and the Committee Amendment. It amends the provisions of the Maine Municipal Bond Bank laws and the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Laws to conform with federal law. The law takes effect June 12, 1997.