

# 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](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:

<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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-326 S-417 MICHAUD

LD 1854 proposed to establish the Maine Economic Improvement Fund to provide funding for applied research and development in five target areas and to provide funding to match funds and grants from private and federal sources.

The source of the funding would be an annual General Fund appropriation not to exceed \$20,000,000. This amount would be obtained through a decrease in transfers of the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Maine Rainy Day Fund and the Retirement Allowance Fund to 40% and 20%, respectively. The Maine Economic Improvement Fund, under this bill, must receive 20% of the unappropriated surplus. The bill also proposed to establish the Maine Economic Improvement Task Force to review policies and programs in support of applied research and development in the five target areas and to create a plan to be submitted to the Legislature for the coordination and maximization of these policies and programs. The five target areas are aquaculture and marine sciences and technology, biotechnology, composite materials engineering, environmental sciences and technology and information sciences and technology.

The purpose of this investment is to spur economic growth through the development and support of new technologies and related businesses.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-326)** proposed to add an additional member to the Maine Economic Improvement Task Force representing the Maine Maritime Academy. The amendment also would amend the compensation for participation on the task force to include legislative members as entitled to legislative per diem and expenses.

**Senate Amendment "B" (S-417)** This amendment proposed to strike the provision in the bill that provided as one funding mechanism for the Maine Economic Improvement Fund, annual transfers from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund and also to remove language requiring General Fund appropriations to the fund.

#### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 556 establishes the Maine Economic Improvement Fund to provide funding for applied research and development in five target areas and to provide funding to match funds and grants from private and federal sources. The source of funding for the Maine Economic Improvement Fund is not specified.

The five target areas are aquaculture and marine sciences and technology, biotechnology, composite materials engineering, environmental sciences and technology and information sciences and technology. The purpose of this investment is to spur economic growth through the development and support of new technologies and related businesses.

Chapter 556 also establishes the Maine Economic Improvement Task Force to review policies and programs in support of applied research and development in the five target areas mentioned previously. A plan is to be submitted by the task force by January 1, 1998 that coordinates and maximizes the utility of these programs and policies. See SPO669 which proposed a similar study of the issue..