

# 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  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

MAY 1998

**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr., Chair*  
*Sen. William B. O'Gara*  
*Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell*

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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>
	OTP-AM	H-1030 H-1123 POVICH

LD 2272 proposed to implement the recommendations of the State Fire Marshal study group, which was created pursuant to Resolve 1997, chapter 10. The bill proposed to define "public safety inspectors", which were created pursuant to the Productivity Realization Task Force. The bill also proposed to clarify the duties and authority of the State Fire Marshal and public safety inspectors.

**Committee Amendment " A " (H-1030)** starting July 31, 1998 and at the end of each month thereafter, proposed to require every fire insurance company or association that does business or collects premiums or assessments in the State to pay to the State Tax Assessor 1/12 of the estimated total tax to be paid for the current calendar year. Currently, insurance companies and associations are required to make payments on a quarterly basis.

The amendment also proposed to correct a technical error and add a fiscal note.

**House Amendment " A " (H-1123)** proposed to clarify the appointing authority for the investigators, inspectors and employees of the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

#### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 728 implements a number of the recommendations of the State Fire Marshal study group, which was created pursuant to Resolve 1997, chapter 10. Public Law 1997, chapter 728 defines "public safety inspectors", which were created pursuant to the Productivity Realization Task Force, and clarifies the duties and authority of the State Fire Marshal and public safety inspectors. Starting July 31, 1998 and at the end of each month thereafter every fire insurance company or association that does business or collects premiums or assessments in the State must pay to the State Tax Assessor 1/12 of the estimated total tax to be paid for the current year.