

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY**

**JULY 1999**

**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. Susan W. Longley, Chair*

*Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat*

*Sen. John W. Benoit*

*Rep. Richard H. Thompson, Chair*

*Rep. Thomas Bull*

*Rep. Charles C. Laverdiere*

*Rep. Patricia T. Jacobs*

*Rep. Charles E. Mitchell*

*Rep. William S. Norbert*

*Rep. Debra D. Plowman*

*Rep. David R. Madore*

*Rep. G. Paul Waterhouse*

*Rep. William J. Schneider*

*Rep. Donna M. Loring*

**Staff:**

*Margaret J. Reinsch, Principal Analyst*

*Deborah C. Friedman, 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 NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees**  
**August 1999**

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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:

*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*  
*ENACTMENT FAILED..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage*  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died*  
*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 September 18, 1999.

## Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

**LD 3**

**An Act to Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Laws of Maine**

**PUBLIC 127  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-220 COLWELL S-53
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LD 3 proposed to correct errors and inconsistencies in the laws of Maine.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-53)** proposed to correct additional errors and inconsistencies, including updates and corrections to the Governmental Evaluation Act and the herring tax.

**House Amendment "A" (H-220)**, a technical amendment offered on behalf of the Committee on Engrossed Bills, proposed to remove erroneous text.

### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 127 corrects errors and inconsistencies in the laws of Maine.

Chapter 127 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 6, 1999.

**LD 37**

**An Act Providing for a Vote of Confidence before a Judge Is Eligible for Reappointment**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MARTIN	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 37 proposed to require an advisory vote prior to the reappointment of a District Court Judge or a Superior Court Justice. As proposed, the Governor could not reappoint the judge or justice if the vote was in the negative; if the vote supported the reappointment of the judge or justice, the Governor would not be required to make that reappointment.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-132)** proposed to change the timing of the advisory referendum for Superior Court Justices and District Court Judges. The referendum would occur at the general election immediately preceding the expiration of the justice's or judge's term. (Not adopted)

**LD 38**

**An Act to Give the Probate Court Power to Order Child Support in Cases Involving Guardianship of a Minor**

**PUBLIC 46**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAFOUNTAIN	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-19
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