

# 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  
JUDICIARY**

**JULY 1997**

***MEMBERS:***

*Sen. Susan W. Longley, Chair*

*Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III*

*Sen. John W. Benoit*

*Rep. Richard H. Thompson, Chair*

*Rep. Elizabeth Watson*

*Rep. David Etnier*

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*Rep. G. Paul Waterhouse*

***Staff:***

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**Maine State Legislature**

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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:

- 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

## Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

**LD 1**

**An Act to Extend the Reporting Deadline for a Study by the Family Law Advisory Commission of the Statutes and Awards and Allocations Concerning Parental Rights and Responsibilities**

**PUBLIC 2  
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report  
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1 proposed to extend the deadline for the Family Law Advisory Commission's study on the statutes and practices of awards and allocations concerning parental rights and responsibilities to January 30, 1997.

### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 2 extends the deadline for the Family Law Advisory Commission's report to January 30, 1997. The legislative recommendations are contained in LD 1053, Public Law 1997, chapter 187. This law takes effect retroactively to December 15, 1996.

**LD 4**

**An Act to Preserve the Life of Viable Fetuses**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
AHEARNE  
PARADIS

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 4 proposed to require an abortion to be performed in a manner that is best calculated to preserve the life of the fetus and to require that a second physician be present to provide all appropriate care to the fetus after birth.

**LD 8**

**An Act to Amend the Laws Specifying When an Indictment in a Criminal Case Is Not Required**

**PUBLIC 4**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report  
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 8 proposed that an indictment in a criminal case not be required if a prosecution utilizing a charging instrument other than an indictment is expressly authorized by rule of court.

### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 4 provides that an indictment in a criminal case is not required if court rules expressly authorize the use of a different charging instrument.