

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

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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).

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 10**An Act to Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Laws of Maine****PUBLIC 393
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-411
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LD 10, the “Errors Bill,” proposed to make technical corrections in the laws of Maine.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-411) proposed to make corrections to the bill and to add several more corrections. Part C proposed corrections that can be considered substantive.

Senate Amendment “A” to Committee Amendment "A" (S-418) proposed to amend the motorcycle registration plates to read “DRIVE SAFELY” rather than the grammatically incorrect “DRIVE SAFE.” (not adopted)

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 393 makes corrections in the Maine laws. This law takes effect June 5, 1997.

LD 23**An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Admission to Mental Health Institutions****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAWRENCE	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 23 proposed to allow medication of a patient in a state mental health institute or nonstate mental health institution during the first 72 hours after voluntary or emergency involuntary admission only in certain circumstances. The bill proposed to shorten the time period for filing emergency commitment papers from five business days to three business days. It proposed to require that the person undergoing commitment or the person's counsel be provided with written notice of the right to choose a physician or psychologist for an examination. See also LD 1806.

LD 25**Resolve, to Extend the Reporting Deadline of the Task Force on Tribal-State Relations****RESOLVE 1
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TREAT	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 25 proposed to extend the reporting deadline for the Task Force on Tribal-State Relations.