

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
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

JULY 1997

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Sen. Stephen E. Hall

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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:

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

LD 68

An Act to Lower the Age for Free Fishing and Hunting Licenses

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LABRECQUE	ONTP	

LD 68 proposed to lower the age for free licenses for hunting, trapping and fishing from 70 to 65 years of age.

LD 81

An Act to Improve the State's Moose Hunt

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PAUL	ONTP	

LD 81 proposed that the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife change the moose lottery to give applicants who were unsuccessful in previous lotteries a better chance of winning.

LD 82

An Act to Allow Field Testing of Unregistered Snowmobiles Repaired by Licensed Snowmobile Repair Shops

PUBLIC 451

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
AHEARNE PARADIS	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-99 S-255 HALL

LD 82 proposed to allow a business that repairs snowmobiles to purchase a license from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife that allows the owner of the shop to lawfully field test an unregistered snowmobile repaired by that shop. Operating an unregistered snowmobile for the purpose of field testing repairs is not allowed under current law.

The annual fee for the snowmobile repair shop license was proposed to be set by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in an amount not to exceed \$15, the current annual fee for a snowmobile dealer's license.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-99), the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, proposed to add an appropriation and a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-255) proposed that registration of a snowmobile not be required to field test repairs to a snowmobile if the snowmobile is tested on the premises of the snowmobile repair shop when the snowmobile repair shop is open and the snowmobile is not owned by the snowmobile repair shop or any repair shop employee.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 451 allows a business that repairs snowmobiles to purchase a license from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife that allows the owner of the shop to lawfully field test an unregistered snowmobile repaired by that shop.

The annual fee for the snowmobile repair shop license is set by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and may not exceed \$15, the current annual fee for a snowmobile dealer's license.

LD 117 **An Act to Change the Moose Hunting Season** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JONES SL MITCHELL B	ONTP	

LD 117 proposed to set the moose hunting season as the last 6 days in October.

LD 118 **An Act to Provide a Day for Resident Hunters Only at the Opening of the Moose Season** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BELANGER D PARADIS	ONTP	

LD 118 proposed to provide a day for resident hunters only to hunt moose.

LD 123 **An Act to Protect Deer** **P & S 43**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SPEAR RUHLIN	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-97

LD 123 proposed to provide that animal damage control agents need not be under the direction of officials from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife when using snares.

The bill also proposed that at least 50% of the department's animal damage control expenditures be spent to control coyotes and at least 75% of the coyote control money be spent in areas of the State where, in the department's opinion, coyote control will be most effective in rebuilding the deer herd.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-97), the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, replaces the bill. The amendment proposed to transfer \$10,000 in each fiscal year of the upcoming biennium from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's carrying account to that department's Bureau of Resource Management for the purpose of supplementing existing resources budgeted for the control of coyotes.

The amendment also proposed to require that Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over inland fisheries and wildlife matters by April 1, 1999 on the total expenditures by the department for coyote control and the effectiveness of those expenditures on rebuilding the deer herd.