

# 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  
LEGAL AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**JULY 1997**

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***MEMBERS:***

***Sen. Beverly C. Daggett, Chair  
Sen. Richard J. Carey  
Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr.***

***Rep. John L. Tuttle, Jr.  
Rep. Albert P. Gamache  
Rep. Nancy L. Chizmar  
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Rep. Rosita Gagne  
Rep. Paul L. Tessier  
Rep. Harry G. True  
Rep. Janice E. Labrecque  
Rep. Joseph H. Bigl  
Rep. Duane J. Belanger***



**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

**LD 89**

**An Act to Prohibit the Gathering of Signatures at a Polling Place**

**DIED IN  
CONCURRENCE**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAVERDIERE	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 89 proposed to prohibit petitioners and survey takers from conducting their activities inside polling places on election day, but would not have affected monitoring of voters or exit polls.

**LD 115**

**An Act to Amend the Treatment of Security Deposits to Provide a Remedy for Failure to Comply**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JONES K	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

Current law prohibits landlords from commingling security deposits with the assets of the landlord and requires the landlord to disclose the location of the security deposit. LD 115 proposed to provide a remedy of \$500 in damages for a landlord’s failure to disclose the location of the security deposit.

**LD 205**

**An Act to Exempt Family Entertainment Centers from Gambling Prohibitions**

**ONTP**

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

LD 205 proposed to authorize family amusement centers to have up to half of the games and amusement devices located in such a facility be redemption poker machines or redemption slot machines, which would have entitled the person playing or operating the game or machine to receive points or coupons that may be exchanged for merchandise only, excluding cash and alcoholic beverages. The value of the points or coupons received would not exceed 2 1/2 cents for each point on the game or machine.

**LD 238**

**An Act to Prohibit Legislators from Accepting Gifts from Lobbyists**

**ONTP**

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

LD 238 proposed to prohibit lobbyists from giving gifts to legislators and would have prohibited legislators from accepting gifts from lobbyists.