

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

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.

Enacted law summary

Public and Special Law 1997, chapter 43 transfers \$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 requires that Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to 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.

**LD 152 An Act to Create a 3-Person Regional Fisheries and Wildlife CARRIED OVER
Advisory Council within Each Resource Management
Administrative Region**

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

LD 152 proposes to reorganize the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council from 10 members based on county representation to 7 members selected from the resource management regions established by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

The bill also proposes to create a 3-member regional council within each resource management region for the purpose of enhancing local input into fisheries and wildlife issues of local and statewide interest. The member of the state advisory council from each region is a member and chair of that region's local council with the other 2 members of a regional council selected by the advisory council. Regional councils are required to hold at least 2 meetings each calendar year and to provide reasonable public notice of each meeting. All members serve without compensation.

The bill also proposes to repeal an existing provision of law granting the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife voting authority for the purpose of breaking a tie. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

**LD 155 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Hunting from a Public Paved PUBLIC 116
Way**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FERGUSON	OTP-AM	S-80

LD 155 proposed to repeal the prohibition on hunting within 10 feet of the edge of the pavement on a paved way.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-80) proposed to clarify that the prohibition on hunting from or near a public paved way and possessing a firearm on a paved way apply to public paved roads.