

# 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  
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JULY 1997

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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:

<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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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 170****An Act to Allow Members of Cooperatives to Vote by Proxy****PUBLIC 7**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CAREY		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 170 proposed to remove the prohibition on members of cooperatives voting by proxy. The bill proposed to allow a cooperative to prohibit voting by proxy in the articles of incorporation or bylaws. If a cooperative did not prohibit voting by proxy in its articles of incorporation or bylaws, members of the cooperative could vote by proxy.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 7 removes the prohibition on members of cooperatives voting by proxy. P.L. Chapter 7 allows a cooperative to prohibit voting by proxy in the articles of incorporation or bylaws. If a cooperative does not prohibit voting by proxy in its articles of incorporation or bylaws, members of the cooperative may vote by proxy.

**LD 184****An Act to Decrease the Time Period Allowed for the Rescission of a Time-share Contract****PUBLIC 83**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HALL		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ OTP MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-60
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LD 184 proposed to decrease the time period allowed for the rescission of a time-share contract from 15 days to seven days.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-60)** proposed to increase the time period allowed for rescission as proposed by the bill from seven days to 10 calendar days.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 83 decreases the time period allowed for the rescission of a time-share contract from 15 days to 10 calendar days.

**LD 204****Resolve, to Authorize the Electricians' Examining Board to Study the Need for Continuing Education Among Helper Electricians****RESOLVE 16**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HATCH		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-142
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LD 204 proposed to amend the laws governing electricians as follows: