

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).

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 170

An Act to Allow Members of Cooperatives to Vote by Proxy

PUBLIC 7

Sponsor(s)
CAREY

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

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

Sponsor(s)
HALL

Committee Report
OTP-AM MAJ
OTP MIN

Amendments Adopted
S-60

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

Sponsor(s)
HATCH

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-142

LD 204 proposed to amend the laws governing electricians as follows:

1. It would have deleted the designation "helper electrician" and eliminated references to helper electricians.
2. It would have changed reference from "inside electrician" to "inside journeyman wireman electrician."

Committee Amendment "A" (H-142) proposed to replace the bill with a resolve directing the Electricians' Examining Board to study the issue of continuing education for helper electricians. The Electricians' Examining Board would report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development by November 15, 1997.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 16 directs the Electricians' Examining Board to study the issue of continuing education for helper electricians. The Electricians' Examining Board is to report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development by November 15, 1997 with its findings and recommendations.

LD 217 An Act to Amend the Optometry Licensing Laws and to Allow PUBLIC 117
Maine Citizens to Fill Contact Lens Prescriptions through the Mail

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LIBBY	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-82

LD 217 proposed to allow a person to fill a contact lens prescription by mail.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-82) proposed to replace the bill. The bill removed the prohibition against filling contact lens prescriptions by mail. This amendment proposed to retain that provision and would also require mail order contact lens suppliers to register with the Board of Commissioners of the Profession of Pharmacy and comply with certain requirements. The amendment would restrict the expiration dates of contact lens prescriptions to 24 months from the date of issue and require record retention for all contact lens prescriptions filled for five years. The amendment would also remove the provision in the Board of Optometry's laws that requires all therapeutic licensees to upgrade their licenses to an advanced therapeutic license.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 117 removes the prohibition against filling contact lens prescriptions by mail. Mail order contact lens suppliers are required to be registered with the Board of Commissioners of the Profession of Pharmacy and comply with certain requirements in order to register. Chapter 117 restricts the expiration dates of contact lens prescriptions to 24 months from the date of issue and requires record retention for all contact lens prescriptions filled for five years. Finally, the provision in the Board of Optometry's laws that requires all therapeutic licensees to upgrade their licenses to an advanced therapeutic license is removed.