

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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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 239 **An Act to Require Picture Identification to be Used by Persons Registering to Vote on Election Day** **ONTP**

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

LD 239 proposed to require a person who registers on election day to show proof of identity and residency that contains a photograph of the person registering.

LD 247 **An Act to Reduce the Hours Required of the Registrar to Register Voters Prior to Election Day** **ONTP**

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

LD 247 proposed to repeal the requirement that the registrar accept voter registrations during certain hours in the last five days before an election and to enact a requirement that the registrar must accept registrations until the polls close on election day.

LD 250 **An Act Relating to the Collection of Initiative Petition Signatures at Polling Places** **ONTP**

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

LD 250 proposed to allow a person to collect signatures on initiative or referendum petitions at a voting place only if the person was registered to vote in an electoral district served by that voting place. It would also have required election wardens to allow a person to remain at the voting place to speak in opposition to a proposed initiative or referendum, but only if the person is a registered voter in an electoral district served by that voting place.

LD 254 **Resolve, Compensating Robert O'Malley for Claims against the State** **RESOLVE 69**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TOWNSEND ABROMSON	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-337

LD 254 proposed to authorize Robert O'Malley to sue the State and individual past and present employees of the Department of the Attorney General who are covered by a liability insurance policy or policies to recover up to \$250,000 for damages resulting from investigation and prosecution of charges against him.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-337) proposed to replace the resolve. Instead of authorizing Robert O'Malley to sue the State, it requires the Governor to pay him \$150,000 in settlement of all claims resulting from the investigation and prosecution and appropriates \$150,000 from the General Fund.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 69 requires the Governor to pay Robert O'Malley \$150,000 in settlement of all claims resulting from investigation and prosecution of charges against him.

LD 255 An Act to Consider the Horse Supply in the Assignment of Race Dates PUBLIC 416

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TRIPP	OTP MAJ ONTP MIN	H-539 TRIPP

LD 255 proposed to repeal the provision of law that requires every commercial harness horse racing track that was licensed for a specific calendar year to be given all the race dates it requests if it conducted live racing on those dates during the immediately preceding calendar year.

House Amendment "A" (H-539) replaced the original bill and proposed to allow the State Harness Racing Commission to conduct a hearing to determine the adequacy of the horse supply when establishing the number of dashes that a licensee may race.

Enacted law summary

Public Law Chapter 416 allows the State Harness Racing Commission to conduct a hearing to determine the adequacy of the horse supply when establishing the number of dashes that a licensee may race.

LD 257 An Act to Amend the Liquor Laws PUBLIC 501

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TRUE	OTP-AM	H-428 S-416 MICHAUD

LD 257 proposed to:

1. Clarify that gifts may not be offered to the purchaser of an alcoholic beverage either on the container or the packaging;
2. Change a reference from "drinks" to "liquor;"