

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
TRANSPORTATION**

JULY 1997

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Sen. John T. Jenkins

Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy

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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 259

An Act to Make Supplemental Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1997

**P & S 5
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DRISCOLL CASSIDY	OTP-AM	H-14

LD 259 proposed to make supplemental allocations from the Highway Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-14) proposed supplemental allocations from the Highway Fund, the Federal Expenditure Fund and the Augusta State Airport Fund. It also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 5 makes supplemental allocations from the Highway Fund, the Federal Expenditure Fund and the Augusta State Airport Fund. This law is effective March 27, 1997.

LD 260

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Production and Issuance of Registration Plates

PUBLIC 311

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM A	H-364
	OTP-AM B	
	OTP-AM C	

LD 260 proposed to create a new design for the new general issue of registration plates that includes a chickadee, a pine cone and a pine tree tassel.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-364) proposed to specify that the Secretary of State must have the advice of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation when devising a numbering system for the new general issue of registration plates.

The amendment also proposed to authorize the continuation through the 118th Legislature of the Task Force on Production and Issuance of License Plates, which was created by Public Law 1995, chapter 645, Part C, section 15. Members of the task force would continue to serve, except that the 2 legislative members whose legislative terms have expired would be replaced with new appointments by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The amendment would charge the task force with continuing its study of the equipment and technology used for the production of license plates and the methods of assigning identifiers to license plates.

The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-365), which was not adopted, was one of two minority reports of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

The amendment proposed to establish the new general issue registration plate design as an illustration of the West Quoddy Headlight.

The amendment also proposed to require the Secretary of State to seek the advice of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over transportation matters when devising a numbering system for the new general issue of registration plates.

The amendment also proposed to authorize the continuation through the 118th Legislature of the Task Force on Production and Issuance of License Plates, which was created by Public Law 1995, chapter 645, Part C, section 15. Members of the task force would continue to serve, except that the two legislative members whose legislative terms have expired would be replaced with new appointments by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The amendment would charge the task force with continuing its study of the equipment and technology used for the production of license plates and the methods of assigning identifiers to license plates.

The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Committee Amendment "C" (H-366), which was not adopted, was one of two minority reports of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

The amendment proposed that the new general issue registration plate include only black letters or numbers on a white background with no illustration.

The amendment also proposed to authorize the continuation through the 118th Legislature of the Task Force on Production and Issuance of License Plates, which was created by Public Law 1995, chapter 645, Part C, section 15. Members of the task force would continue to serve, except that the two legislative members whose legislative terms have expired would be replaced with new appointments by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The amendment would charge the task force with continuing its study of the equipment and technology used for the production of license plates and the methods of assigning identifiers to license plates.

The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "B" (H-432) proposed to strike the provision in Committee Amendment "B" that requires license plates with an illustration of the West Quoddy Head light and replace it with language describing a plate that is the same as the current lobster license plate, but without the lobster and without the word "Vacationland." This amendment was not adopted.

House Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "B" (H-433) proposed to strike the provision in Committee Amendment "B" that requires license plates with an illustration of the West Quoddy Head light and replace it with language describing a plate that is the same as the current lobster license plate, but without the lobster. This amendment was not adopted.

House Amendment "C" to Committee Amendment "B" (H-443) proposed to require that the new general issue of registration plates include only black letters or numbers on a white background with a border distinctly black. This amendment also proposed the Task Force on Production and Issuance of Registration Plates to consider the production of two specialty plates: one plate with the illustration of the West Quoddy Headlight and the other plate with the illustration of a chickadee, pine cone and tassel. It also proposed to authorize the task force to review the production of the environmental registration plate and the registration plate for the University of Maine System in its consideration of producing the two specialty plates. This amendment was not adopted.

House Amendment "A" (H-398) to Committee Amendment "C" (H-366) proposed to repeal the requirement that registration plates contain the word "Vacationland." This amendment was not adopted.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 311 creates a new design for the new general issue of registration plates that includes a chickadee, a pine cone and a pine tree tassel. It specifies that the Secretary of State must have the advice of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation when devising a numbering system for the new general issue of registration plates. It also authorizes the continuation through the 118th Legislature of the Task Force on Production and Issuance of License Plates, which was created by Public Law 1995, chapter 645, Part C, section 15. Members of the task force must continue to serve, except that the two legislative members whose legislative terms have expired must be replaced with new appointments by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The law charges the task force with continuing its study of the equipment and technology used for the production of license plates and the methods of assigning identifiers to license plates.

LD 264 An Act to Create a License Plate for Women Veterans ONTP

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

LD 264 proposed to establish a specialty license plate for veterans who are women and who have been honorably discharged.

LD 279 An Act to Require the Department of Transportation to Include Additional Criteria When Determining Whether to Take Over a Road ONTP

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

LD 279 proposed to add the impact of a classification of a highway on agriculture and forestry to the list of criteria the Department of Transportation must use in its rules for determining whether a road is a state aid, state highway or town way.

LD 299 An Act to Prohibit the Department of Transportation from Classifying a Road as a Town Way if 4,000 or More Vehicles Travel the Road Daily ONTP

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

LD 299 proposed to prohibit the Department of Transportation from classifying a road as a town way if that road serves 4,000 or more vehicles per day on average.