

# 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**

**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. William B. O'Gara, Chair*

*Sen. John T. Jenkins*

*Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy*

*Rep. Joseph D. Driscoll, Chair*

*Rep. Gerald N. Bouffard*

*Rep. Paul Chartrand*

*Rep. Charles D. Fisher*

*Rep. Gary J. Wheeler*

*Rep. David A. Lindahl*

*Rep. Dean F. Clukey*

*Rep. Steven M. Joyce*

*Rep. Christine R. Savage*

*Rep. Robert J. Winglass*

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**Maine State Legislature**

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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:

- CARRIED OVER*.....*Bill carried over to Second Regular Session*
- CON RES XXX*.....*Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses*
- CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....*Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died*
- DIED BETWEEN BODIES*.....*House & Senate disagree; bill died*
- DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....*One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill*
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....*Action incomplete when session ended; bill died*
- EMERGENCY*.....*Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days*
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....*Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote*
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....*Bill failed to get majority vote*
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*.....*Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote*
- INDEF PP*.....*Bill Indefinitely Postponed*
- ONTP*.....*Ought Not To Pass report accepted*
- OTP ND*.....*Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft*
- OTP ND/NT*.....*Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title*
- P&S XXX*.....*Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law*
- PUBLIC XXX*.....*Chapter # of enacted Public Law*
- RESOLVE XXX*.....*Chapter # of finally passed Resolve*
- UNSIGNED*.....*Bill held by Governor*
- VETO SUSTAINED*.....*Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto*

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 322****An Act to Require the Secretary of State to Revoke the Driver's License of a Person Involved in a Fatal Accident while Committing a Violation of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A****ONTP**

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

Currently, the Secretary of State has discretionary authority to administratively suspend a driver's license for good reason. LD 322 proposed to set a three-year license suspension period, consistent with the three-year administrative suspension period for OUI-related homicides, when the driver has caused the death of another person while engaged in conduct that is a violation of any provision of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, even if the driver was not under the influence.

**LD 340****An Act Relating to Consumer Rental Vehicles****ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CHARTRAND PINGREE	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 340 proposed to provide that a rental company's insurance policy must provide primary coverage for rental cars and trucks.

**LD 342****An Act to Change the Eligibility Requirements for Free Registration Plates for Certain Veterans****ONTP**

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

Under current law a veteran must be 100% disabled in order to qualify for free disabled veteran registration plates. LD 342 proposed to reduce the required amount of disability to 50% or more.

**LD 367****An Act to Provide That the Operator of a Motor Vehicle Is Not Responsible for Securing in a Seat Belt a Passenger 18 Years of Age or Older****PUBLIC 450**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TOWNSEND	OTP-AM	H-334 S-218 LIBBY S-343 LIBBY

LD 367 proposed to exempt limousine drivers from the responsibility of having paying passengers use a seat belt.