

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
UTILITIES AND ENERGY**

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

Sen. Richard J. Carey, Chair

Sen. John J. Cleveland

Sen. Philip E. Harriman

Rep. Kyle W. Jones, Chair

Rep. Carol A. Kontos

Rep. Ronald E. Usher

Rep. Gary O'Neal

Rep. Patrick Colwell

Rep. Charles C. Laverdiere

Rep. Joseph B. Taylor

Rep. Henry L. Joy

Rep. Donald P. Berry, Sr.

Rep. John W. Vedral

Staff:

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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).

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

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JONES K CAREY	OTP	

LD 371 proposed to expand the definition of "qualified school" for purposes of access to information services under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 7104-A. The expanded definition would include private schools approved by the Department of Education under Title 20-A, section 2901, but would not include schools approved by the department for attendance purposes only.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 169 expands the definition of "qualified school" for purposes of access to information services under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 7104-A.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WINSOR	OTP-AM	H-132

LD 372 proposed to modify laws regulating skilled labor that exempt employees of public utilities or other corporations regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, the Federal Communications Commission or the Interstate Commerce Commission from licensing requirements otherwise applicable to electricians, plumbers and oil burner technicians. The bill proposed to make the exemptions apply only to the extent the employee or the corporation is providing a service that is regulated by those agencies. The bill proposed that, when doing work that is not part of the regulated service, the corporation and its employees would not be exempt from the licensing requirements.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-132) proposed to replace the entire bill but to preserve the substance of that portion of the bill that modified the exemption public utilities are currently granted from the licensing requirements for making electrical installations. The amendment proposed to clarify the language of the exemption and remove an obsolete reference to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 119 modifies the exemption public utilities and their employees are currently granted from licensing requirements for making electrical installations. It provides that the exemptions apply only to the extent the employee or the utility is providing a regulated service.