

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

Staff:

***Deborah C. Friedman, Legislative Analyst
Roy W. Lenardson, Legislative Analyst***

***Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670***

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Sen. Richard J. Carey
Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr.***

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Maine State Legislature

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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>
GOLDTHWAIT	OTP-AM A	S-122
	OTP-AM B	S-184 LAWRENCE
	ONTP C	

LD 387 proposed to amend the requirements governing an off-premise retail licensee's ability to conduct taste testings of wine on those licensee's premises. It added the category of spirits to wine and malt liquor, the sale of which must make up 50% or more of a licensee's gross income.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-122), which was adopted, is the minority report of the committee. It proposed to add provisions to the bill relating to taste testing at fine wine stores. It decreased the number of different wine labels that must be carried at a store to qualify as a fine wine store from 500 to 250 labels. It also repealed the language requiring that taste testing at a fine wine store be conducted in an area separate from the retail sales floor and not readily accessible to the general public. The amendment also allowed a farm winery to engage in taste testing its product at the premises of other retail licensees.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 414 amends the requirements governing which off-premise retail licensees can conduct taste testings of wine on those licensee's premises. It adds the category of spirits to wine and malt liquor, the sale of which must make up 50% or more of a licensee's gross income. It adds provisions to the bill relating to taste testing at fine wine stores. It decreases the number of different wine labels that must be carried at a store to qualify as a fine wine store from 500 to 250 labels. It also repeals the language requiring that taste testing at a fine wine store be conducted in an area separate from the retail sales floor and not readily accessible to the general public.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MICHAUD	OTP-AM	S-83

LD 406 proposed to allow a third person to have 10 or fewer absentee ballots for voters in a municipality at any time. Current law allows a person to have only one or two absentee ballots.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-83) proposed to allow a third person to have five absentee ballots.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 120 increases the number of absentee ballots a third person may have from two to five.