

# 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  
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

**JULY 1997**

**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. Marge L. Kilkelly, Chair*

*Sen. Richard P. Ruhlin*

*Sen. Stephen E. Hall*

*Rep. Norman R. Paul, Chair*

*Rep. Ronald E. Usher*

*Rep. Joseph E. Clark*

*Rep. Matthew Dunlap*

*Rep. Albion D. Goodwin*

*Rep. Royce W. Perkins*

*Rep. Howard A. Chick*

*Rep. John H. Underwood*

*Rep. Ruel P. Cross*

*Rep. Harry G. True*

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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 416**

**An Act to Amend the Definition of Personal Watercraft, to Prohibit the Imprudent Operation of Watercraft on Inland Waters of the State and to Assess the Effectiveness of Industry-sponsored Watercraft Safety Training and Education Programs**

**PUBLIC 540**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KILKELLY	OTP-AM	H-768 COMM OF CONF

LD 416 proposed to increase the minimum age from 12 to 16 years of age for operating personal watercraft, to require the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to license businesses engaged in the rental of personal watercraft and, after January 1, 1998, to make it unlawful for a person to register or operate a personal watercraft without first completing a personal watercraft safety and education course offered by the department or by qualified individuals or businesses operating under contract with the department.

The bill also proposed to prohibit wake jumping by personal watercraft operators and to require personal watercraft rental agents to affix safety decals to each personal watercraft rental.

**Committee of Conference Amendment “A” (H-768)** the unanimous report of a Committee of Conference requested by the House of Representatives, proposed to replace the bill and all its amendments. This amendment proposed to update the definition of personal watercraft to include jet propelled vessels less than 14 feet and to create a civil violation for the imprudent operation of a watercraft on inland waters that is enforceable either by a law enforcement officer or by an individual through a private nuisance action. Current law allows any law enforcement officer to enforce fish and wildlife laws.

The amendment also proposed to require the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to work with personal watercraft distributors, dealers, rental agents and users to promote industry sponsored safety and education programs and to assess the rate of participation and the effectiveness of industry sponsored personal watercraft safety training programs and educational materials. The Commissioner is also required to report to the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature on the number of prosecutions of this law by law enforcement officers and the number of nuisance actions taken for imprudent operation of watercraft.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 540, the conference committee report, was enacted without change.

**LD 425**

**An Act to Require a Person Applying for a Moose Permit to Possess a Hunting License**

**ONTP**

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

LD 425 proposed to require that an applicant for a moose hunting permit possess a valid hunting license.