

# 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  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**JULY 1997**

**MEMBERS:**

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*Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait*

*Sen. James D. Libby*

*Rep. Douglas J. Ahearne, Chair*

*Rep. William Lemke*

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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:

<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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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 479

**RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Ensure that the Composition of the Legislature Reflects the Socio-economic Makeup of the Population of the State**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PERKINS KILKELLY	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 479 proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to include language that specifies that it is the desire of the people of the State that the membership of the Legislature be representative of the socio-economic and occupational background of the general population and that compensation and benefits for Legislators must be established to ensure equal access to service in the Legislature for all citizens.

LD 487

**An Act Concerning the Charter of the Northern Maine Development Commission, Inc.**

**P & S 13  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KIEFFER DONNELLY	OTP	

LD 487 proposed to repeal the charter of the Northern Maine Development Commission, Inc.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 13 repeals the Legislative Charter of the Northern Maine Development Commission, Inc. The Commission will continue to operate under its own charter. Chapter 13 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 25, 1997.

**LD 488**

**An Act to Change the Laws Pertaining to the Issuance of Copies of Birth, Marriage or Death Certificates by Towns**

**PUBLIC 32**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MICHAUD	OTP-AM	S-21

LD 488 proposed to permit a town clerk to charge \$7 for the first copy of a birth, marriage or death certificate and \$3 for each additional copy. Current law requires a clerk to charge these fees.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-21)** proposed to clarify that a town clerk may charge an amount less than \$7 for the first copy of a birth, marriage or death certificate and an amount less than \$3 for each additional copy.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 32 permits town clerks to charge up to \$7 for the first copy of a birth, marriage or death certificate and up to \$3 for each additional copy.