

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
JUDICIARY**

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

Sen. Susan W. Longley, Chair

Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III

Sen. John W. Benoit

Rep. Richard H. Thompson, Chair

Rep. Elizabeth Watson

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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

LD 490

An Act to Increase Fees and Allowances for Jury Service

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
MILLS

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 490 proposed to increase the daily compensation rate for a juror from \$10 to \$15 and to provide free parking and a meal allowance to jurors.

LD 491

An Act to Amend Provisions of the Probate Code Relating to Depositing Wills in Court within the Testator's Lifetime

PUBLIC 76

Sponsor(s)
MILLS

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
S-48

LD 491 proposed to repeal the law that allows a testator to deposit the testator's will with the Probate Court for safekeeping.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-48) proposed to strike only those provisions of the Probate Code dealing with presentation, appearance and content of a deposited will.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 76 repeals the provision of law that allowed a testator or testator's agent to deposit the testator's will for safekeeping with the Probate Court.

LD 492

An Act to Adjust the Residency Requirement for District Court Judges to Include the Counties in Which They Reside

PUBLIC 10

Sponsor(s)
MILLS

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 492 proposed to expand the possible areas of residence for District Court Judges to include a county in which the district lies.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 10 enables District Court Judges to have wider latitude in their choice of residency. It expands the possible areas of residence for District Court Judges to include a county in which the district lies.