

# 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:**

*Sen. John M. Nutting, Chair*

*Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait*

*Sen. James D. Libby*

*Rep. Douglas J. Ahearne, Chair*

*Rep. William Lemke*

*Rep. Lucien A. Dutremble*

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*Rep. Belinda A. Gerry*

**Staff:**

*Roy W. Lenardson, Legislative Analyst*

*Deborah C. Friedman, Legislative Analyst*

*David C. Elliott, Principal Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis*

*Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station*

*Augusta, ME 04333*

*(207)287-1670*



**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](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 495**                      **RESOLUTION, Proposing An Amendment to the Constitution of  
Maine to Alter the Requirements for Redistricting**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MICHAUD		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 495 proposed an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to require that each House of the Legislature decide separately, by a majority vote, the legislative district apportionment plan, and repealing the requirement that the Governor approve the plan.

**LD 510**                      **An Act to Designate Agency Rules That Increase Fees or Restrict  
Licenses as Major Substantive Rulemaking**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> STEDMAN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 510 proposed to categorize all changes to agency rules setting fees as major substantive rules which would require legislative review and approval prior to final adoption. The bill also proposed to categorize any restrictions placed by rulemaking on licenses issued by agencies as major substantive rules.

**LD 516**                      **An Act to Impose a Statute of Limitations for Violations of  
Municipal Subdivision Ordinances**                      **PUBLIC 323**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAVERDIERE		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-474
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LD 516 proposed to place a 20-year statute of limitations on actions brought to enjoin the sale or other conveyance of land or a dwelling unit in a subdivision in violation of municipal ordinances.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-474)** proposed that the 20-year statute of limitations does not apply to a subdivision that has been enjoined, or to a subdivision that has been disapproved by the municipal reviewing authority, denied a building permit or subject to an enforcement action, provided a record of the disapproval, denial or action has been recorded in the appropriate registry of deeds.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 323 provides a 20-year statute of limitations on violations of municipal subdivision ordinances. The statute of limitations is tolled if the municipality takes certain enforcement actions and records the actions in the appropriate registry of deeds.