

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
BANKING AND INSURANCE**

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.

Sen. I. Joel Abromson

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Rep. Julie Winn

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Rep. Joseph Bruno

Staff:

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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

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service to the customer would not be in the public interest. The bill also proposed to remove the requirement that the customer be served when the disclosure is sought in connection with a criminal proceeding.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 16 authorizes district attorneys to advise the court to delay or dispense with requiring service of a subpoena, summons, warrant or order requesting disclosure of financial records if service to the customer would not be in the public interest. The law also removes the requirement that the customer be served notice when the disclosure is sought in connection with a criminal proceeding.

LD 552 **An Act to Prohibit Rebates and Other Incentives Pertaining to Insurance Claims** **ONTP**

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

LD 552 proposed to prohibit a motor vehicle repair facility from refunding a deductible to be paid by insured customers or providing rebates or other incentives to insured customers or other persons as an incentive to have a repair made at the repair facility with respect to repairs paid for in whole or in part by insurance companies.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-92) is the minority report of the committee and replaced the bill. It proposed to narrow the provision to apply only to motor vehicle glass repairs and prohibits a motor vehicle glass repair facility from refunding a deductible or any part of a deductible to be paid by insured customers or other persons as an incentive to have a motor vehicle glass repair made at the repair facility.

The amendment also adds a fiscal note. Committee Amendment "A" was not adopted.

LD 561 **An Act to Provide the Maine Turnpike Authority with Representation on the State Employee Health Commission** **PUBLIC 77
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'GARA	OTP-AM	S-54

LD 561 proposed to add representation on the State Employee Health Commission to labor and management of the Maine Turnpike Authority. The commission determines the Authority's health benefits and plan costs for its employees.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-54) proposed to correct a technical error and add an emergency preamble, an emergency clause and a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 77 adds one labor member and one management member representing the Maine Turnpike Authority to the State Employee Health Commission.

LD 585 **An Act to Protect the Confidentiality of Social Security Numbers** **ONTP**

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

LD 585 proposed to prohibit businesses from using a customer's social security number on correspondence.

LD 602 **An Act to Clarify Requirements for a Credit Union Applying to Expand Its Field of Membership** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KIEFFER	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 602 proposed to require a credit union applying for an expansion of its field of membership to show that the requested expansion satisfies the defined fields of membership within the law.

LD 622 **An Act to Deter Automobile Owners from Canceling their Insurance and to Require Notification of Cancellation** **ONTP**

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

Current law requires that owners and operators of motor vehicles maintain automobile liability insurance or other proof of financial responsibility. LD 622 proposed to amend the motor vehicle laws regarding auto insurance to require that, in addition to the existing requirement of a 10-day notice before cancellation of a policy, insurance companies provide the Secretary of State with a 10-day notice before termination of a policy occurs by expiration. The requirement in this bill applies to policies that must be filed and certified as proof of financial responsibility with the Secretary of State under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A, section 1602. The penalties for failure to provide proof of financial responsibility within 30 days of a request include suspension of the person's license, of the registration of the vehicle for which proof of insurance was not provided and of the right to apply for a license or registration. An insurance company that fails to provide the required notice is subject to a civil forfeiture of \$1,000.

See related bills LD 112 and LD 836.