

# 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  
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JULY 1997

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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 541**

**An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Licensure of Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters**

**PUBLIC 156**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FARNSWORTH	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-196

LD 541 proposed to amend the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, chapter 23-A, Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters, to revise the requirements for the trainee permit to include a more extensive period of supervised work experience and to centralize and revise fee information to include an application fee and a separate fee for the retake of the practical examination. Language would also be revised in chapter 23-A to make it gender-neutral.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-196)** proposed to add an allocation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 156 amends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, chapter 23-A, Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters, to revise the requirements for the trainee permit to include a more extensive period of supervised work experience and to centralize and revise fee information to include an application fee and a separate fee for the retake of the practical examination.

**LD 550**

**An Act to Ensure Fairness to Merchants under an Implied Warranty of Merchantability**

**VETO  
SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BUCK BUTLAND	OTP	

LD 550 proposed to amend the Uniform Commercial Code to provide sellers of consumer goods who are required to honor implied warranties of merchantability to their customers with recourse against the manufacturer of those goods when the defect is the fault of the manufacturer. The Legislature enacted the bill, however, the Governor vetoed the bill. The veto was sustained; and the Legislature enacted LD 1889 to accomplish the intent of LD 550 without raising the concerns outlined in the Governor’s veto message.

**LD 567**

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study Poverty Among Working Parents with Regard to the Livable Wage in Business Assistance Subsidies**

**ONTP**

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

LD 567 proposed to require all business assistance subsidies provided by the Department of Economic and Community Development to be directed to employers that pay at least \$11.54 per hour in direct compensation.

**LD 573**                      **An Act to Conform the Maine Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to Federal Law**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 573 proposed to conform Maine's Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to a recent amendment to the federal Fair Debt Collections Practices Act.

**LD 584**                      **An Act to Repeal the Laws Regulating Naturopathic Practitioners**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 584 proposed to amend the laws governing the Board of Complementary Health Care Providers to eliminate the provisions regulating the practice of naturopathic medicine.

**LD 597**                      **An Act to Amend the Statutes Pertaining to Emergency Medical Services**                      **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 597 is being carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature. This bill proposes to amend the current laws concerning emergency medical services by:

1. Changing the reference to the course that a basic emergency medical technician must complete from one defined by the United States Department of Transportation to one defined by Maine Emergency Medical Services;
2. Expanding the definition of emergency medical services' person;
3. Expanding the monitoring power of the Emergency Medical Services' Board to include other services provided by its licensees and to define treatments or services that fall within the scope of the practice of an emergency medical services person;
4. Expanding the membership of the Emergency Medical Services' Board by three persons; and