

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
INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

Sen. Marge L. Kilkelly, Chair

Sen. Richard P. Ruhlin

Sen. Stephen E. Hall

Rep. Norman R. Paul, Chair

Rep. Ronald E. Usher

Rep. Joseph E. Clark

Rep. Matthew Dunlap

Rep. Albion D. Goodwin

Rep. Royce W. Perkins

Rep. Howard A. Chick

Rep. John H. Underwood

Rep. Ruel P. Cross

Rep. Harry G. True

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

Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

exhibition, are allowed to operate at greater than headway speed within the water safety zone. The proposed annual fee for a permit is \$25.

The amendment also proposed to require that an applicant obtain the permission of all property owners within 75 feet of any buoy associated with the water-skiing course as a condition of obtaining a permit. The amendment also specifies certain dimensional and other safety requirements that apply to any course permitted by the commissioner.

The amendment also proposed to repeal the permitting authority on March 31, 1999 and to add a fiscal note to the bill.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-388) proposed to require that notice must be given to all municipalities that have jurisdiction over a body of water before a permit is issued for a water-skiing course on that body of water.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 277 allows the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to issue permits for the use and operation of water skiing courses within the 200 foot water safety zone. It is effective on May 27, 1997.

LD 520 An Act to Require the Use of Helmets on Whitewater Rafting Trips ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BULL	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 520 proposed to require whitewater guides and passengers in a whitewater craft wear a properly fitting protective helmet while on rivers with rapids classified as Class III or higher.

LD 562 An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to Moose Hunting ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BENOIT	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 562 proposed that the open season on moose be from the second Monday in October to the following Saturday and that hunting within 500 yards of a sand or salt shed be prohibited.

LD 580 An Act Relating to the Designation of Species As Endangered or Threatened DIED IN CONCURRENCE

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> FISK RAND	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 580 proposed to give the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife the authority to designate wildlife species as endangered or threatened.

LD 588 An Act to Require Free Access to Waters Stocked with Fish Raised by the State ONTP

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

LD 588 proposed that fish or fish spawn raised by the State may not be introduced in any inland waters unless free access to the public is available whenever these waters are open to fishing.

LD 610 An Act to Amend the Moose Hunting Permit Laws ONTP

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

LD 610 proposed to increase from 1500 to 3000 the number of moose permits that may be issued by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in calendar years 1998 and 1999.

The bill also proposed to limit eligibility for moose permit applications in 1998 or 1999 only to persons who possess a valid Maine hunting license, if the person is a resident of the State, or a valid Maine big game hunting license, if the person is a nonresident or alien. Persons who are chosen in those years to receive a permit were proposed to be allowed to sell their permit back to the department for a predetermined fee for sale by the department to applicants who were not chosen in the public chance drawing.

LD 611 An Act to Ensure Funding for Snowmobile Law Enforcement Activities PUBLIC 513

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KIEFFER	OTP-AM MAJ	H-756 KERR
UNDERWOOD	OTP-AM MIN	H-766 UNDERWOOD S-270

LD 611 proposed to create a Snowmobile Enforcement Fund in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and require that a certain amount of each resident and nonresident snowmobile registration fee collected by the department is credited to that fund. Resident snowmobile registration fees were proposed to increase from \$20 to \$25 per year and the money used to supplement other appropriations to the Bureau of Warden Service for snowmobile enforcement, safety and educational purposes.