

# 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:**

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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](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 551**                      **An Act to Require Certain State Notices to Include Statutory Authority Citations**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 551 proposed to require all state agencies to cite the appropriate statutory authority in any enforcement notice or written communication regarding a potential enforcement action.

**LD 555**                      **An Act Concerning the Fees Charged by the Secretary of State for Copies**                      **INDEF PP**

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

LD 555 proposed to require that the Secretary of State receive the actual cost per page for copies and the actual cost of production for electronic copies when those copies are prepared by the office of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State currently receives 75¢ per page for most copies.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-138)**, which was not adopted, replaced the original bill and established a rate of 20¢ for certain copies in the Secretary of State's office.

**LD 566**                      **An Act to Provide Computers for Use in the Legislature**                      **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 566 proposes that the Legislative Council to provide a computer system in the chambers of the Senate and House of Representatives for each member of the Legislature. The computer systems would allow Legislators immediate access to current law, pending legislation, bill status and committee schedules. Installation of the computers would be completed before the First Regular Session of the One Hundred and Nineteenth Legislature. This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.

**LD 601**                      **An Act to Provide Municipal Notification of Utility Services**                      **PUBLIC 199**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAGGETT	OTP-AM	S-146

LD 601 proposed to repeal the law prohibiting utilities from installing service to a lot or dwelling unit until municipal officers have certified that the lot or dwelling unit is in compliance with shoreland zoning and subdivision laws. It proposed instead to require a utility to notify the municipal officers before installing services, unless it has received prior authorization from the municipal inspector. This bill was referred jointly to the Joint Standing Committee on Utilities and Energy.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-146)** replaced the bill. It proposed to maintain the current law requiring utilities to obtain written certification that lots or units comply with municipal ordinances before installing utility services, but to add a provision allowing each municipality to establish alternate procedures with utilities if it so chooses. The municipality and the utility must agree to the alternate procedures before they supersede existing requirements.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 199 allows municipalities to agree to an alternate procedure for utility companies to notify the municipality before installing utility services to a lot or dwelling unit, in order to give the municipality a chance to ensure that the lot or dwelling unit complies with municipal ordinances.

**LD 629                      Resolve, Authorizing the Conveyance of the Interest of the State in                      RESOLVE 17**  
**Certain Property in Augusta**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAGGETT		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-77
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LD 629 proposed to authorize the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to convey the interest of the State in certain property in Augusta to the Maine State Employees Credit Union in exchange for the conveyance to the State of certain property of the credit union and the payment to the State by the credit union of the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the property received over the property conveyed.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-77)** proposed several minor changes to the bill. It referenced the date and number of the order of the City of Augusta, discontinuing Jackson Street, acknowledges the recent sale of 131 Sewall Street by the Maine State Employees Credit Union, clarified that the instrument of conveyance by the State and the credit union will be a quitclaim release deed and clarified the mechanism for determining the consideration to be paid by the credit union. The amendment also added a fiscal note to the resolve.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1997, chapter 17 authorizes the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to convey the interest of the State in certain property in Augusta to the Maine State Employees Credit Union in exchange for the conveyance to the State of certain property of the credit union and the payment to the State by the credit union of the excess, if any, of the fair market value of the property received over the property conveyed.