

# 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:**

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Sen. Richard P. Ruhlin  
Sen. Stephen E. Hall*

*Rep. Norman R. Paul, Chair  
Rep. Ronald E. Usher  
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**Staff:**

*Patrick T. Norton, 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:

<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 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.

The bill also proposed a one-time transfer of \$42,000 from the department's carrying balances account to reimburse the warden service for snowmobile enforcement expenditures that were in excess of the amount budgeted by the warden service for those purposes in fiscal year 1996-97. If that amount was not sufficient to fully reimburse the warden service for those costs, the bill proposed to authorize the State Controller to transfer additional money from the carrying balances account as necessary to fully reimburse the warden service.

This bill also proposed to require the department to budget for snowmobile enforcement activities at a level not less than the average snowmobile enforcement operations program expenditures in the previous 2 fiscal years.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-270)**, the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, proposed to strike the provisions in the bill that relate to resident snowmobile registrations and make technical changes to the bill to avoid conflicts with changes enacted earlier in the session by Public Law 1997, chapter 24.

**House Amendment "A" (H-766)** proposed to remove the emergency preamble and emergency clause and change the date by which the State Controller is required to transfer certain funds.

**House Amendment "B" (H-756)** proposed to authorize annual transfers from the Carrying Balance program to the General Fund as undedicated revenue.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 513 requires that seven percent of the non-resident snowmobile registration fee be used to supplement other appropriations to the Bureau of Warden Service for snowmobile enforcement, safety and educational purposes.

**LD 746**                      **An Act Concerning the Use of Leg Hold Traps for Coyote in the Unorganized Territory**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 746 proposed to require leg hold traps set for coyote in unorganized or deorganized places to be checked at least once every 72 hours. Current law requires those traps to be visited at least once a day.

**LD 751**                      **An Act to Outlaw the Use of Eel Pots in Inland Waters**                      **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 751 proposes to prohibit the use of eel pots in inland waters beginning in 1998. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.