

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
LEGAL AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

*Sen. Beverly C. Daggett, Chair
Sen. Richard J. Carey
Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr.*

*Rep. John L. Tuttle, Jr.
Rep. Albert P. Gamache
Rep. Nancy L. Chizmar
Rep. Charles D. Fisher
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Rep. Joseph H. Bigl
Rep. Duane J. Belanger*

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

LD 615

An Act Concerning the Removal of Campaign Signs

ONTP

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

LD 615 proposed to increase the amount of the forfeiture from \$100 to a minimum of \$200 and a maximum of \$500 that could be levied for political signs that were erected more than six weeks prior to an election or that were not taken down within a week after the election. The candidate or the candidate's political committee would have been required to pay the penalty.

LD 638

An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Sale of Alcohol on Golf Courses

ONTP

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

LD 638 proposed to repeal the provision in current law that prohibits the sale of liquor on golf courses for consumption away from the licensed area.

LD 646

An Act to Limit Corporate Contributions and to Establish Voluntary Spending Limits for Citizen-Initiated Ballot Campaigns

ONTP

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

LD 646 proposed to limit corporate contributions to citizen-initiated ballot campaigns to \$500 unless the corporation was a nonprofit corporation meeting certain criteria or the corporation formed a separate segregated fund financed by contributions from shareholders, employees or members of the corporation. The bill also would have established a voluntary spending limit for political action committees with regard to citizen-initiated ballot campaigns.

LD 672

An Act to Prohibit the State Auditor and Constitutional Officers from Engaging in Political Fund-raising Activities

ONTP

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

LD 672 proposed to prohibit any political fund-raising activities by constitutional officers and the State Auditor and candidates for those offices.