

# 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**

***MEMBERS:***

***Sen. John T. Jenkins, Chair***

***Sen. Anne M. Rand***

***Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon***

***Rep. Marc J. Vigue, Chair***

***Rep. Rosaire J. Sirois***

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***Rep. Jay MacDougall***

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***Staff:***

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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

Sponsor(s)  
ROWE

Committee Report  
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 736 proposed to abolish the Economic Development and Business Assistance Coordinating Council. The council was created in 1992 but never received state funding. The council is no longer necessary in light of the recent establishment of a similar economic development organization and the formation of an economic development strategic plan at the state level.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 48 abolishes the Economic Development and Business Assistance Coordinating Council. The council was created in 1992 but never received state funding. The Council is no longer necessary in light of the recent establishment of a similar economic development organization and the formation of an economic development strategic plan at the state level.

Sponsor(s)  
FARNSWORTH

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-358

LD 737 proposed to establish a propane and natural gas apprentice registration program under the Propane and Natural Gas Act to allow a technician to hire a helper to assist in installations and maintenance of propane and natural gas equipment. This bill also proposed to exempt from licensure highway transport drivers who deliver propane to bulk plants or industrial customers.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-358)** proposed to change all references to "apprentice" to "helper." This amendment would also add the words "on-site" to ensure that all work performed by a helper on-site is done under the direct and continuous supervision of a licensed individual. This amendment would repeal the tagging requirement for the installation of propane and natural gas equipment.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 270 establishes a propane and natural gas helper category under the Propane and Natural Gas Act to allow a technician to hire a helper to assist in installations and maintenance of propane and natural gas equipment. All work performed by a helper on-site must be done under the direct and continuous supervision of a licensed individual. Chapter 270 exempts from licensure highway transport drivers who deliver propane to bulk plants or industrial customers. Chapter 270 also repeals the tagging requirement for the installation of propane and natural gas equipment.