

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

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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
Rep. Rosita Gagne
Rep. Paul L. Tessier
Rep. Harry G. True
Rep. Janice E. Labrecque
Rep. Joseph H. Bigl
Rep. Duane J. Belanger***



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 778

Resolve, to Create a Voluntary Commission to Study the Integrity of Political Advertisements and Their Effect on the Voters

ONTP

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

LD 778 proposed to establish the Voluntary Commission to Study the Integrity of Political Advertisements and their Effect on the Voters.

LD 782

An Act to Ensure the Availability of Expertise on Dam Safety

PUBLIC 517

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NASS	OTP-AM	H-172 S-425 MICHAUD

LD 782 proposed that a state dam inspector be available to provide technical assistance to the owners, lessees or persons in control of a dam or to a municipality in which a dam is located if the Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency orders the owners, lessees or persons in control of the dam to correct unsafe conditions.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-172) removed funding for fiscal year 1997-98 and retained the funding of a Dam Inspector position for fiscal year 1998-99. The amendment also added an effective date and a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-353) delayed the effective date and reduced the General Fund Appropriation.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 517 provides for the appropriation of funds for one dam inspector position to carry out dam inspections and provide technical assistance.

LD 817

An Act Relating to the Use of Public Offices or Agency Facilities in Campaigns and Ballot Questions

ONTP

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

LD 817 proposed to prohibit an elected official or the official's employee from using a public office or agency facilities to assist a campaign for the election of any person to any office or to promote or oppose any ballot proposition.