

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 884**An Act to Reimburse Philip Wolley for Litigation Expenses Incurred in Connection with His Termination and Reinstatement as a State Employee**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MURRAY BAKER C	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 884 proposed to appropriate \$28,000 to reimburse Philip Wolley for litigation expenses incurred in connection with his termination and subsequent reinstatement as a state employee.

LD 885**An Act to Amend the Qualifications of the Administrator of the Maine Veterans' Homes**

PUBLIC 147

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BENNETT GAGNE	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-97
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LD 885 proposed to expand the pool of applicants qualified to administer the Maine Veterans' Homes' five nursing home facilities by eliminating the requirement that the administrator of the Maine Veterans' Homes be a war veteran.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-97) removed the qualification that would have allowed any eligible individual to be an administrator. The amendment reinstated the language to clarify that the administrator must be a veteran, although not a "war veteran," which would expand the pool of applicants and still retain the veteran requirement.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 147 provides that an administrator of the Maine Veterans' Homes must be a veteran, not a "war veteran" as previously required. This will expand the pool of applicants, while still maintaining the veteran requirement.

LD 898**An Act to Repeal the Presidential Primary****DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LOVETT PENDLETON P	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 898 proposed to repeal the presidential preference primary in Maine.