

# 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  
BANKING AND INSURANCE**

**JULY 1997**

**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III, Chair*

*Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.*

*Sen. I. Joel Abromson*

*Rep. Jane W. Saxl, Chair*

*Rep. Julie Winn*

*Rep. Thomas M. Davidson*

*Rep. Christopher P. O'Neil*

*Rep. Joseph C. Perry*

*Rep. Stephen S. Stanley*

*Rep. Joseph G. Carleton, Jr.*

*Rep. Sumner A. Jones, Jr.*

*Rep. Arthur F. Mayo III*

*Rep. Joseph Bruno*

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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](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

Public Law 1997, chapter 155 also clarifies that a pawnbroker must have physical possession of the substantive collateral to effectuate a pawn transaction.

**LD 889**                      **An Act to Ensure Fair Claims Settlement Practices**                      **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 889 proposes to expand the list of the types of unfair claims settlement practices by an insurer for which recovery may be made by an individual in a private cause of action.

The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session along with a related bill, LD 1783.

**LD 900**                      **An Act Regarding the Decision by an Insurance Carrier Whether to Cover Certain Services**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 900 proposed to require carriers offering health plans in this State to employ persons licensed or otherwise qualified in particular areas to perform medical review or utilization review for the health plan in those areas in which the persons are licensed or qualified to make decisions about the provision of health care services to health plan enrollees.

**LD 902**                      **An Act Requiring Notice to Homeowners' Insurance Policyholders when an Insurer Ceases to Transact Business with an Agent**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BAKER J FERGUSON	ONTP	

LD 902 proposed to require an insurer to notify homeowners' insurance policyholders when the insurer ceases to do business through an agent or broker.