

# 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  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**JULY 1997**

***MEMBERS:***

***Sen. Judy Paradis, Chair***

***Sen. Susan W. Longley***

***Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell***

***Rep. J. Elizabeth Mitchell, Chair***

***Rep. Joseph E. Brooks***

***Rep. Elaine Fuller***

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***Rep. Lois A. Snowe-Mello***

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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:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i> .....	<i>Bill carried over to Second Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i> .....	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i> .....	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i> .....	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i> .....	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i> .....	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i> .....	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i> .....	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i> .....	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i> .....	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

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

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-409)** is the majority report of the committee. It proposed to provide \$1,000,000 per year for homeless shelters. This amendment proposed to reduce the membership of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities and to direct it to report to the Governor and Legislature on how best to provide affordable housing and homeless shelter services to persons with mental illness and to make recommendations on the future role and responsibilities of the task force. It also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

**Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-372)** proposed to eliminate the appropriation section and add a fiscal note.

**Committee Amendment "B" (H-410)** is the minority report of the committee. It proposed to reduce the membership of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities and to direct it to report to the Governor and Legislature on how best to provide affordable housing and homeless shelter services to persons with mental illness and to make recommendations on the future role and responsibilities of the task force. It also would have added a fiscal note.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter PL 552 comprises the provisions of Committee Amendment "A" and Senate Amendment "A". It reduces the membership on the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities and requires a report to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 1997, on affordable housing and homeless shelter services for persons with mental illness and substance abuse problems and on the future role and responsibilities of the task force.

**LD 917**

**Resolve, to Establish a Coordinated Information Referral System and a Single Intake System for the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and the Department of Public Safety**

**INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JOYNER MITCHELL B	OTP-AM	

In Part A LD 917 proposed to establish the Department of Health and Family Services to assume fully the duties of the current Department of Human Services and Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

In Part B this bill proposed to transfer from the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to the Department of Health and Family Services all of the expenditures, assets, liabilities, appropriations and allocations, rules, contracts and agreements, records, property and employees of those 2 departments. It would have directed the Revisor of Statutes to make any statutory corrections necessary for consistency of the statutes.

In Part C this bill proposed to direct transitional activities concerning the budget and the functions of the departments involved. It would have directed the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services to submit legislation needed to correct errors and inconsistencies.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-685)** would have replaced the bill. It proposed to require the Departments of Corrections, Education, Human Services, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and Public Safety to establish a coordinated information referral system and a single intake system for clients. By January 1, 1998, the named departments would have been required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services regarding their progress in establishing the systems. The report would have been required to contain any legislation required to establish the systems. It would have added a fiscal note to the bill.

**LD 932                                      An Act Regarding Foster Parent Insurance                                      PUBLIC 46**

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

LD 932 proposed to require the Director of the Bureau of General Services within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to provide insurance advice and services to specialized children's homes.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 46 comprises the provisions of the bill. It provides for state insurance services for specialized children's homes.

**LD 939                                      An Act to Require Certain Employees of Health Care Facilities to                                      DIED BETWEEN  
Wear Identification Badges                                      BODIES**

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

LD 939 proposed to require that persons who observe, examine or treat patients or residents at health care facilities wear identification badges.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-89)** proposed to restrict the bill's provisions to fewer health care facilities and allows exceptions for safety purposes. It would have added a fiscal note to the bill.

**Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-100)** proposed to provide that if a health care facility permits or requires its employees to wear identification badges, that health care facility may not prohibit the display on those badges of the employees' licensure status.