

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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Sen. Richard J. Carey
Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr.***

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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:

<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 & 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&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & 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

LD 921

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Beano and Bingo

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'NEAL		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 921 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. The bill proposed to amend the laws governing beano in the following ways: Change the maximum payout from \$1,400 to \$2,000; provide for new machines with verifying equipment; clarify the procedures to be followed when problems arise, such as when "beano" is invalidly called; addressed the issue of uniformity in house rules; it also proposed to clarify the law authorizing the Chief of the State Police to make and adopt rules governing beano; prohibit persons under 16 years of age from admittance to the playing area; and require that rules adopted governing "beano" be published in a format that allows them to be placed in a binder to save money on printing.

LD 924

An Act to Clarify the Responsibilities of Directors of Nonprofit Corporations

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> COWGER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 924 proposed to require that corporate records of a nonprofit corporation pertaining to expenditure of funds received from any source be made available to the public within 10 days of a request.

LD 936

An Act to Permit Voters to Affirmatively Vote against All Named Candidates

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GERRY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 936 proposed to require the inclusion of the choice "None of the above" on primary election ballots, presidential preference primary ballots and general election ballots.

LD 949

An Act Regarding the Wording of Ballot Questions

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RUHLIN FISHER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 949 proposed to require the Secretary of State, in writing the ballot question for citizen-initiated legislation, to include a description of each major element of the law at issue. It also would have given the Secretary of State flexibility to write the question to avoid confusion about the impact of an affirmative vote.