

# 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  
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JULY 1997

**MEMBERS:**

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*Sen. Anne M. Rand*

*Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon*

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**Staff:**

*Carrie C. McFadden, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207)287-1670*



**Maine State Legislature**

**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013  
Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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

LD 904 proposed to clarify that the Maine State Housing Authority's annual financial report may be prepared by the State Auditor or a qualified public accountant, which would be consistent with the preparation of financial reports of other independent authorities of the State.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-141)** proposed to add an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 125 clarifies that the Maine State Housing Authority's annual financial report may be prepared by the State Auditor or a qualified public accountant, which is consistent with the preparation of financial reports of other independent authorities of the State.

Chapter 125 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 25, 1997.

**LD 994                      An Act to Conform the Maine Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to Federal Laws                      ONTP**

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

LD 994 proposed to conform the Maine Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to a recent amendment to the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 United States Code, Section 1692( e) (11), contained in the federal Omnibus Appropriations Act, 1997 Public Law 104-208, Section 2305.

**LD 1005                      An Act to Provide for the Licensing of Building Contractors                      ONTP**

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

LD 1005 proposed to establish in the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Division of Licensing and Enforcement, a comprehensive register of contractors doing business in the State. The information would be available to the public.

The bill specified information that the contractor must provide and information that the department must provide the registrants to ensure that they would be aware of all applicable legal and ethical requirements for engaging in their particular business in Maine.

The registrants would be required to renew their registration annually and pay registration fees established by the department to cover the costs of administration of this law, but these requirements must be coordinated with any specific licensing or certification requirements with which the contractor must comply.

Registration would not be permitted for a contractor whose license, certification or registration has been suspended or revoked in this State or any other state unless the contractor passes a professional review.