

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
JUDICIARY

MAY 1998

**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. Susan W. Longley, Chair*

*Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III*

*Sen. John W. Benoit*

*Rep. Richard H. Thompson, Chair*

*Rep. Elizabeth Watson*

*Rep. David Etnier*

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees  
May 1998**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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:

*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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

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

LD 1062 proposed to implement the recommendations of the Judicial Compensation Commission established by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, chapter 35. The bill proposed to increase the direct compensation for the State's judges and justices, equalize the salaries of District Court Judges and Superior Court Justices, increase the per diem rate for Active Retired Judges and improve the retirement benefit under the Maine Judicial Retirement System. The bill proposed to remove the provision repealing the Judicial Compensation Commission in 1999.

After the Judiciary Committee reported out the bill in 1997, the House and Senate recommitted the bill to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, which carried over the bill. During the Second Regular Session, LD 1062 was recommitted to the Judiciary Committee, which reported out the bill as Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (Majority Report). The bill was eventually indefinitely postponed because the recommendations contained in Committee Amendment "B" were incorporated as Part M of Public Law 1997, chapter 643 (Supplemental Budget).

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-286)** (Majority Report) proposed to increase judicial salaries, but at a lower rate than proposed in the bill. It also proposed to revise the retirement benefits to include a blended cap. (First Regular and First Special Sessions) (Not adopted)

**Committee Amendment "B" (S-542)** (Majority Report) proposed to increase judicial salaries, but at a lower rate than proposed in the bill. It also proposed to revise the retirement benefits to include a blended cap. It differs from Committee Amendment "A" by proposing that the cost of living adjustment not take effect until 1999. (Second Regular and Second Special Sessions) (Not adopted)

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

LD 1181 proposed to repeal the provision of law that provides that when any person suffers death or damage as a result partly of that person's own fault and partly of the fault of any other person and that person is found by the jury to be equally at fault, that person may not recover damages.

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