

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:

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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

provide for the establishment of branches, agencies and representative offices of foreign banks in Maine and the regulatory scheme for their operation. The powers, duties and obligations of foreign banks operating such offices in Maine are comparable to those of financial institutions organized pursuant to Title 9-B as modified by provisions comparable to those contained in the federal International Banking Act of 1978. The primary difference between a financial institution organized pursuant to Title 9-B and a foreign bank branch is that the foreign bank branch may not solicit deposits of less than \$100,000 and is not required to maintain federal deposit insurance.

Part C of the bill proposed to amend Title 9-B, section 232 to provide the Superintendent of Banking with the authority to remove directors and officers of financial institution holding companies. During 1996, the Bureau of Banking successfully completed the Conference of State Bank Supervisors' accreditation process for state banking departments. The Accreditation Review Team, however, recommended in its report of accreditation that director and officer removal authority be extended to financial institution holding companies.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-120) proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-143) was presented on behalf of the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading to avoid a section numbering conflict with Public Law 1997, chapter 66.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 182 enacts provisions into State law for the establishment and regulation of foreign banks and branches in Maine. The law is the State's response to the provisions relating to foreign banking and branching contained in the federal Reigle-Neal Interstate Banking and Branching Efficiency Act of 1994. It allows foreign banks and foreign bank holding companies to establish or acquire Maine financial institutions and financial institution holding companies with the prior approval of the Superintendent of Banking. It also allows foreign banks to establish branches, agencies or representative offices in the State subject to the requirement that foreign branches may not solicit deposits of less than \$100,000 and are not required to maintain federal deposit insurance.

Public Law 1997, chapter 182 also gives the Superintendent of Banking the authority to remove directors and officers of financial institution holding companies.

LD 1132

An Act to Amend the Continuing Care Retirement Community Laws

PUBLIC 478

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TRIPP	OTP-AM	H-426

LD 1132 proposed to repeal a provision added to the laws governing continuing care retirement communities in 1995 that exempts such communities under specific circumstances from complying with the provisions of the State's certificate of need laws in connection with the development and construction of any nursing facility. This bill also proposed to enact two provisions in the continuing care retirement community laws that were repealed in 1995 that require credit reports on all persons responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the developer of a continuing care retirement community and a requirement that the Department of Human Services, as part of the application process, certify to the Superintendent of Insurance that the proposed provider and developer of the continuing care retirement community has demonstrated the willingness and ability to ensure that health care services or supportive services, or both, will be provided in an appropriate manner to the persons who will reside in the continuing care retirement community.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-426) renamed and replaced the bill. It proposed to remove the requirement that only a nonprofit continuing care retirement community is exempt from the requirements of the State's certificate of need laws in connection with the development and construction of a skilled nursing facility as part of the continuing care retirement community.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 478 removes the requirement that only a nonprofit continuing care retirement community is exempt from the requirements of the State's certificate of need laws in connection with the development and construction of a skilled nursing facility as part of the continuing care retirement community.

LD 1150 An Act to Prohibit Discrimination Based on Genetic Testing Information ONTP

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

LD 1150 proposed to define the terms genetic information and genetic test and prohibit health insurance companies from denying coverage or increasing premiums based on genetic testing information. The bill also proposed to allow a person to bring a civil action if the person is denied coverage or if premiums are increased based on genetic testing information.

See related bills LD 1210 and LD 1243.

LD 1185 An Act to Prohibit the Raising of Interest Rates as a Penalty for Late Payment on Debt ONTP

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

LD 1185 proposed to prohibit a lender from raising credit card interest rates as a penalty for late payments.

LD 1190 Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 840: Private Purchasing Alliances, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance RESOLVE 14 EMERGENCY

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-121