

# 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  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**JULY 1997**

**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. John M. Nutting, Chair*

*Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait*

*Sen. James D. Libby*

*Rep. Douglas J. Ahearne, Chair*

*Rep. William Lemke*

*Rep. Lucien A. Dutremble*

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*Rep. Laura Sanborn*

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*Rep. Belinda A. Gerry*

**Staff:**

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**Maine State Legislature**

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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:

- 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 1152 proposed to allow a joint standing committee of the Legislature to employ independent legal counsel, without approval of the Attorney General, if the Legislative Council approved the committee’s proposal for employment.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-488)** proposed to replace the bill. It would have authorized the Legislative Council to employ legal counsel for a legislative investigating committee, without approval of the Attorney General, if (1) the council believed that representing the committee would place the Department of the Attorney General in a conflict with its representation of persons or entities subject to investigation; and, (2) existing legislative staff could not provide the needed services.

**LD 1160                      RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of                      ONTP  
Maine to Establish 4-year Terms for Constitutional Officers**

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

LD 1160 proposed to amend the Constitution of Maine to establish four-year terms for the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the State Auditor.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-174)** proposed to delete language relating to the State Auditor, since that office is not established in the Constitution and to add a limit of two consecutive terms to each of the constitutional officers.

**LD 1169                      An Act to Authorize the Annexation of Certain Land by Lake View                      ONTP  
Plantation**

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

LD 1169 proposed to authorize the annexation by Lake View Plantation of land owned by Albert J. Childs in Township 4, Range 9 NWP in Piscataquis County, subject to referendum.

**LD 1173                      An Act to Preserve Public Access to Governmental Information                      PUBLIC 299  
through Libraries Regardless of Format or Medium                      EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TREAT	OTP-AM	S-253

LD 1173 proposed to require state agencies and legislative committees to supply 18 print copies of publications on electronic media, such as CDs or videotapes, as well as 18 copies in the publication medium. It also proposed to require that they provide one print copy of electronically published material, such as material placed on the Internet, to the State Librarian.