

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

Staff:

***Deborah C. Friedman, Legislative Analyst
Roy W. Lenardson, Legislative Analyst***

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

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

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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).

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 1161

An Act to Extend Political Party Status to 4 Years

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
GERRY

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1161 proposed to require political parties to satisfy the 5% presidential or gubernatorial vote or the 5% petition requirement only once every four years instead of every two years.

LD 1170

An Act to Amend Department of Defense and Veterans' Affairs Laws

PUBLIC 455

Sponsor(s)
DAGGETT
TUTTLE

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
S-114

LD 1170 was an omnibus bill for the Department of Defense and Veterans' Services. The bill proposed a number of technical changes as well as a number of substantive changes. (The substantive changes are outlined in the "Enacted law summary.")

Committee Amendment "A" (S-114) clarified a potential interpretation problem by clarifying that volunteers would not have to be paid 12 times the minimum wage.

The amendment maintained statutory qualifications for the positions of Adjutant General and Adjutant General's assistant.

The amendment also added an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 455 makes a number of technical changes as well as several substantive changes as follows:

The bill restores the Division of Veterans' Services to bureau status as it had existed before 1991 and renames it as the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services.

The bill specifies that the Maine National Guard may charge for services provided with state authorization. The money collected pays the costs of providing those services.

The bill replaces the Director of Civil Emergency Preparedness with the Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency, and restores the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to pay range 85.

The bill provides an automatic extension of the power of attorney that a member of the United States Armed Forces Reserves used to provide a temporary guardian in their place in the event of their mobilization. If the mobilization exceeded six months, then that power of attorney would be automatically extended until 30 days after the service member returns from duty or until order of the court.