

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
JUDICIARY**

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

Sen. Susan W. Longley, Chair

Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III

Sen. John W. Benoit

Rep. Richard H. Thompson, Chair

Rep. Elizabeth Watson

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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).

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 1167

An Act to Clarify the Timber Trespass Laws

PUBLIC 214

Sponsor(s)
MILLS

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
S-173

LD 1167 proposed to clarify what an owner may recover as damages when agricultural or forest products are destroyed or carried away without permission of the owner or when a property marker or monument is disturbed.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-173) proposed to make technical changes in the bill and to expand the allowable damages for restoring a marker or monument.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 214 clarifies what an owner may recover as damages when agricultural or forest products are destroyed or carried away without permission of the owner. It also allows an owner who has had land, forest products or agricultural products damaged due to the disturbance, removal or destruction of any monument to include in damages claimed the cost of engineering and surveying services necessary to reestablish the monument and its proper location.

LD 1178

An Act to Allow Paralegals to Represent Clients in Small Claims Cases or Alternative Dispute Resolution

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
STEDMAN

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1178 proposed to permit paralegals to represent clients in small claims cases and in alternative dispute resolution according to rules adopted by the Supreme Judicial Court.

LD 1181

An Act to Change the Comparative Negligence Laws

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
MITCHELL J

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1181 proposes 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. This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.