

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

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

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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

LD 1172

An Act Regarding the Funded Depreciation Accounts of the Maine Veterans' Homes

PUBLIC 98

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BENNETT GAGNE	OTP	

LD 1172 proposed to allow the Maine Veterans' Homes to more easily meet cumulative cash flow deficit requirements for working capital loan portions of tax-exempt bond issues under the federal tax code.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 98 makes it easier for the Maine Veterans' Homes to issue tax-exempt working capital loans while continuing to maintain the funded depreciation accounts. The Federal Treasury regulations require that any money contained in a funded depreciation account, must be reimbursed in compliance with a Legislative requirement.

LD 1212

An Act to Strengthen Legislative Ethics Laws

ONTP

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

LD 1212 proposed to prohibit legislators, legislative candidates and employees and officers of the Legislature from accepting or soliciting gifts from a lobbyist or lobbyist employer except under specified listed circumstances.

LD 1261

An Act Concerning Public Notice of Lottery Odds

PUBLIC 301

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PERKINS	OTP-AM	H-427

LD 1261 proposed to require the State Lottery Commission to give notice to a person purchasing a lottery ticket in the State of the odds of winning in a game of chance by printing the odds on the face of the lottery ticket.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-427) clarified that all lottery tickets must include the overall odds of winning a prize.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 301 requires the Director of the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to have printed on all lottery tickers the overall odds of winning a prize.