

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:

Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III, Chair

Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.

Sen. I. Joel Abromson

Rep. Jane W. Saxl, Chair

Rep. Julie Winn

Rep. Thomas M. Davidson

Rep. Christopher P. O'Neil

Rep. Joseph C. Perry

Rep. Stephen S. Stanley

Rep. Joseph G. Carleton, Jr.

Rep. Sumner A. Jones, Jr.

Rep. Arthur F. Mayo III

Rep. Joseph Bruno

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).

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 1210

An Act to Prohibit Insurance Companies from Denying Health Care Coverage Based on DNA Tests

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
SAXL J
LAFOUNTAIN

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1210 proposed to prohibit the following from excluding or providing more restrictive benefits based on information obtained from DNA tests: individual, family and group health insurance policies; hospital, medical and health care service plans; fraternal society certificates of health benefits; and health maintenance organization contracts.

See related bills LD 1150 and LD 1243.

LD 1243

An Act to Protect the Privacy of Genetic Information

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
RAND

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1243 proposes to provide measures for the protection of the privacy of genetic information. It prohibits discrimination in any form of insurance regulated by the Bureau of Insurance on the basis of genetic information and requires informed consent for obtaining genetic information. It also provides individuals who are tested the right to inspect genetic information concerning them and to be informed of the results of genetic tests. The bill also prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of genetic information.

LD 1243 was carried over to the Second Regular Session; related bills LD 1150 and LD 1210 were not enacted pursuant to Joint Rule 310 but the substantive provisions proposed in those bills will be incorporated into the consideration of LD 1243.

LD 1265

An Act to Establish a Maximum Rate of Interest on Credit Card Debt

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
GOODWIN

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1265 proposed to limit the interest that may be charged on any transactions involving a credit card purchase to 12 1/2%. Under current law, any amount of interest may be charged on a credit card transaction upon the agreement of the creditor and the consumer.