

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. 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 1270

Resolve, to Waive Sovereign Immunity and Tort Claims Limitation on Damages Relative to the Wrongful Death of Wrendy Hayne

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
AMERO
JONES K

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1270 proposed to authorize Janice Burns as personal representative of the estate of Wrendy Hayne to sue the State for damages resulting from the alleged treatment and subsequent murder of Wrendy Hayne at the Augusta Mental Health Institute. As a result of negotiations during the legislative session, the State and Mrs. Burns came to a settlement in the case.

LD 1297

An Act Pertaining to Free Meals for Legislators during a Prayer Breakfast

PUBLIC 223

Sponsor(s)
BENOIT
JOY

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1297 proposed to allow Legislators to receive a free meal if it was during a prayer breakfast or during a meeting to establish a prayer breakfast.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 223 amends the criminal law prohibiting gifts to Legislators, to allow a legislator to receive a free meal at a prayer breakfast.

LD 1300

An Act to Increase the Number of Signatures Required for a Name to Appear on the Ballot for Certain Offices

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
RUHLIN

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1300 proposed to double the number of signatures required for a candidate to appear on a primary ballot or for a third-party candidate to appear on an election ballot for the offices of President of the United States, United States Senator, Representative to Congress and Governor. The bill also would have repealed the provision that permits a candidate to appear on a presidential primary ballot without submitting a petition with signatures.