

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:

<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 1342

An Act to Improve Procedures for Citizen Referenda and Initiatives

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
MILLS

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1342 proposed to make a number of changes in the law regarding the citizen initiative process. With regard to the collecting of signatures on a petition, the bill would have required that a copy of the full text of the proposed law be offered to each potential signer and that signatures in a number equal to at least one percent of the required number of signatures be collected from each county. It also would have required that persons collecting signatures inside or within 250 feet of a voting place be located so that voters can exit the voting place without passing immediately by that location. With regard to voting on an initiated ballot question, the bill would have required the summary prepared by the Revisor of Statutes to appear on the ballot after the initiative question and would have required that a copy of the full text of the proposed law be available for inspection at the voting place on election day.

LD 1350

An Act to Require the Printing of the Toll-free Telephone Number of the Council on Compulsive Gambling on all Lottery Tickets Sold in the State

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
MACK
HALL

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1350 proposed to require that the toll-free telephone number of the Council on Compulsive Gambling, or its successor organization, be printed in bold type on the face of all lottery tickets sold in the State.

LD 1360

An Act Allowing Political Parties to Nominate by Caucus or Convention

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
GERRY

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1360 proposed to clarify how and when minor political parties may choose their method of nominating candidates. It provided for nomination by primary, following the current procedure for primary nominations, or by caucus or convention. It would have required a minor party to notify the Secretary of State of its nominees within 10 days after the party's primary, caucus or convention. It would have also required all parties to notify the Secretary of State no later than December 15th prior to an election year of the enrollment qualifications of voters eligible to vote in that party's primary, caucus or convention.