

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
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait

Sen. James D. Libby

Rep. Douglas J. Ahearne, Chair

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Staff:

Roy W. Lenardson, Legislative Analyst

Deborah C. Friedman, Legislative Analyst

David C. Elliott, Principal Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207)287-1670



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:

- 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 1358

An Act to Amend the Procedures for Finalizing the Kennebec County Budget

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
JONES SA
CAREY

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1358 proposes to eliminate the requirement under current law that the Kennebec County commissioners submit the annual county budget to the Legislature for approval. It also eliminates the advisory budget committee and places responsibility for the final budget approval on a budget committee composed of elected and appointed municipal officials equally representing the county commissioner districts. As the county legislative delegation was divided on whether and how to amend the Kennebec County budget process, the bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 1359

An Act to Amend the Androscoggin County Budget Process

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
BOUFFARD
JENKINS

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1359 proposes to amend the budget approval process for Androscoggin County by removing the requirement that the budget be submitted to the Legislature for final approval. Instead, the existing budget committee would be empowered to adopt the budget which it must submit to the county commissioners. The county commissioners could alter the budget committee's budget only by a unanimous vote; and, if the commissioners do so, the budget committee could reject the county commissioners' change by a two-thirds vote. As the county legislative delegation was divided on whether and how to amend the Androscoggin County budget process, the bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 1379

An Act to Expand Options for Investment of Certain Municipal Trust Funds

PUBLIC 367

Sponsor(s)
AMERO

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
S-264

LD 1379 proposed to place certain conditions on mutual fund investing of a trust fund governed by the United States Internal Revenue Code, Section 501 (c) (3) and the custody of the municipality.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-264) proposed to replace the bill. It added an option for investment of municipal trust funds to allow investment in mutual funds with portfolios of other than United States government bonds and repurchase agreements backed by United States bonds, provided the trust fund is governed by the United States Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3), municipal officers approve the investment at a public meeting, no more than 50% of the assets of the trust are invested in such mutual funds and these investments are diversified.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 367 adds an option for investment of certain municipal trust funds, to allow investment in mutual funds with portfolios of other than United States government bonds and repurchase agreements backed by United States bonds. This option applies only if the trust fund is governed by the United States Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3), municipal officers approve the investment at a public meeting, no more than 50% of the assets of the trust are invested in such mutual funds and the investments are diversified.

LD 1387 **Resolve, to Authorize the Lincoln County Commissioners to Borrow Not More Than \$400,000 to Build the Lincoln County Communications Center** **RESOLVE 32 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SPEAR	OTP-AM	H-268

LD 1387 proposed to authorize the Lincoln County commissioners to borrow not more than \$600,000 for construction of a communications center for the communication needs of Lincoln County, such as the 9-1-1 system.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-268) proposed to reduce from \$600,000 to \$400,000 the amount the Lincoln County Commissioners are authorized to borrow to build a communications center for Lincoln County.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 32 authorizes the Lincoln County commissioners to borrow up to \$400,000 for construction of a communication center for Lincoln County. Resolve 1997, chapter 32 was passed as an emergency measure effective May 20, 1997.

LD 1391 **An Act to Reestablish the State Compensation Commission** **PUBLIC 506**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE DAGGETT	OTP-AM	H-309 H-440 KONTOS S-383 MICHAUD

LD 1391 proposed to reestablish the State Compensation Commission, consisting of five members appointed from the public. The bill proposed that, every two years, the commission submit to the Legislature its recommendations regarding compensation for Legislators, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the State Auditor.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-309) proposed to clarify that the appointments may not be from the same political party and to require the State Compensation Commission to issue its initial report no later than January 15, 1998. The amendment also added an appropriation section and fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-383) proposed to require the presiding officers to make their appointments within 15 days of the effective date of the bill and to require the chair of the Legislative