

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:

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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
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insurance products from other financial institution products and services. The law also requires financial institutions selling insurance products in connection with a loan to provide advance notice to the borrower of the borrower's right to choose and purchase any insurance product from any agent or broker.

Public Law 1997, chapter 315 clarifies that certain statutory provisions relating to the regulation of insurance sales by supervised lenders, financial institutions and credit unions authorized to do business in this State do not apply to group health and group life insurance to the extent authorized by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24-A, chapters 31 and 35 when the insured is enrolled in the insurance policy, credit life and credit health insurance to the extent authorized by Title 24-A, chapter 37, credit property insurance, credit involuntary unemployment insurance, forced placed property insurance, a vendor's single interest policy or any insurance product as determined by the Superintendent of Insurance.

The law also authorizes the Superintendent of Banking, Superintendent of Insurance and Director of the Office of Consumer Credit Regulation to conduct joint rulemaking to implement the law's provisions.

Public Law 1997, chapter 315 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 29, 1997.

LD 1386

Resolve, to Review Health Insurance Benefits Mandated by the State

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WATERHOUSE CAREY	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 1386 proposed to require the Bureau of Insurance to review existing mandated health insurance benefits in the same manner as it is currently required to review new proposals for mandated coverage. The bureau must report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over insurance matters by January 15, 1998 on the social and financial impacts, the medical efficacy of mandating the benefit and the effects of balancing the social, economic and medical efficacy considerations and determine which of the existing mandates are to be repealed, amended or continued.

LD 1417

An Act to Prohibit Certain Accidents from Being Used by Insurers to Increase Insurance Premiums

ONTP

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

LD 1417 proposed to prohibit an insurer from imposing a surcharge or increasing the rate for an insurance policy on a motor vehicle owned for personal use when the insured was involved in an accident while employed as a commercial driver and the accident was determined to be not the fault of that person.