

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
TRANSPORTATION**

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

Sen. William B. O'Gara, Chair

Sen. John T. Jenkins

Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy

Rep. Joseph D. Driscoll, Chair

Rep. Gerald N. Bouffard

Rep. Paul Chartrand

Rep. Charles D. Fisher

Rep. Gary J. Wheeler

Rep. David A. Lindahl

Rep. Dean F. Clukey

Rep. Steven M. Joyce

Rep. Christine R. Savage

Rep. Robert J. Winglass

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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 1382 **An Act to Reimburse Law Enforcement Agencies for Their Costs
Related to the Prosecution of Criminal and Traffic Violations** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CLEVELAND		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1382 proposed to reimburse law enforcement agencies for the cost of sending off-duty officers to testify in court. The bill also proposed to increase the compensation for the designated court officer from \$10 to \$20 per day.

LD 1401 **An Act to Impose Penalties on Adult Passengers in Motor Vehicles
Who Fail to Use Seat Belts** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> USHER		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1401 proposed that if a passenger 19 years of age or older does not wear a seat belt, both the driver and the passenger commit a traffic infraction.

LD 1418 **An Act to Allow Certain Overweight Trucks to Proceed without
Being Off-loaded** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MICHAUD		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1418 proposed to allow a state police officer to issue a permit to an overweight motor vehicle to continue to its destination without off-loading if the officer determines that the excess weight does not constitute a public hazard.

LD 1422 **An Act to Abolish the Maine Turnpike Authority** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RUHLIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1422 proposed to abolish the Maine Turnpike Authority in two years and transfer duties and operation of the turnpike to the Department of Transportation. The department would have been required to submit a plan by January 1, 1998 that would accomplish the transfer by January 1, 1999.