

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
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Anne M. Rand

Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon

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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

Resolve 1997, chapter 25 directs the Maine State Cultural Affairs Council to identify other states and countries with similar cultural or business interests with which a reciprocal "sister state" agreement would benefit the State. The Council must report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by March 1, 1998.

LD 1437 **Resolve, to Study the State's Regional Service Center Communities** **RESOLVE 78**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JENKINS		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-159
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LD 1437 proposed to establish the Task Force on Regional Service Centers to study the feasibility of and mechanisms for establishing regional service centers throughout the State to encourage political subdivisions of the State to cooperate in business, economy, law enforcement, education and other areas. The task force would seek advice from interested officials and parties and report back to the Legislature by January 1, 1998.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-159) proposed to replace the resolve and establish the Task Force on Regional Service Center Communities to recommend ways to strengthen the State's principal service center communities, including their roles as job creators and regional service providers, and to study the feasibility of and mechanisms to encourage these communities and other political subdivisions of the State to cooperate in business, economy, law enforcement, education and other areas. The task force is directed to submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 1998.

Enacted law summary

Resolves 1997, chapter 78 establishes the Task Force on Regional Service Center Communities to recommend ways to strengthen the State's principal service center communities, including their roles as job creators and regional service providers, and to study the feasibility of and mechanisms to encourage these communities and other political subdivisions of the State to cooperate in business, economy, law enforcement, education and other areas. The task force is directed to submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislature by January 1, 1998.

LD 1452 **An Act to Establish the Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for All Regions of the State** **P & S 51**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JOY		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-504 S-400 MICHAUD
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LD 1452 proposed to impose a moratorium on construction and development in southern Maine counties for two years, or for a lesser period of time if laws are enacted before then to provide for equal economic development opportunity for all of Maine. The bill proposed to create the Board for Equal Economic Development Opportunity to recommend laws to provide for equal economic opportunity and to study the feasibility of creating two states out of the current Maine territory.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-504) replaced the bill and proposed to establish the Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for all Regions of the State. The purpose of the task force would be to evaluate the causes of unequal economic development and recommend strategies to overcome the barriers. The task force would be required to provide an interim report by February 15, 1997 to the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development and a final report to the Governor, the Legislative Council and the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development to the First Regular Session of the 119th Legislature by November 15, 1998.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-400) proposed to specify that only legislative members receive per diem and reimbursement for expenses, change the reporting date for the report, specify the number of authorized meetings and revise the appropriation section.

Enacted law summary

Private & Special Law 1997, chapter 51 establishes the Task Force to Study Equal Economic Opportunity for all Regions of the State. The purpose of the task force is to evaluate the causes of unequal economic development and recommend strategies to overcome the barriers. The task force is required to provide a final report to the Governor, the Legislative Council and the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature by January 1, 1998.

LD 1468

An Act to Amend the Maine Veterinary Practice Act of 1975

PUBLIC 246

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHANNON	OTP-AM	H-322

LD 1468 proposed to amend the Maine Veterinary Practice Act of 1975 to modernize and clarify definitions and other provisions, to make the language gender neutral and to revise the qualifications for reciprocal licensure to enhance the mobility of practitioners between Maine and other states with equivalent requirements for licensure.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-322) proposed to further amend the Maine Veterinary Practice Act of 1975 to include as recognized veterinary medicine specialties those alternative medical practices approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association. This amendment also proposed to allow animal health assistants to read certain laboratory tests designated by the Maine State Board of Veterinary Medicine and permit animal health assistants to perform animal health care duties when the supervising licensed veterinarian or registered veterinary technician was either on the premises or quickly and easily available.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 246 amends the Maine Veterinary Practice Act of 1975 to modernize and clarify definitions and other provisions and revise the qualifications for reciprocal licensure to enhance the mobility of practitioners between Maine and other states with equivalent requirements for licensure. The law further amends the Maine Veterinary Practice Act of 1975 to include as recognized veterinary medicine specialties those alternative medical practices approved by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Animal health assistants are given the authority to read certain laboratory tests designated by the Maine State Board of Veterinary Medicine and to