

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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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

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

perform animal health care duties when the supervising licensed veterinarian or registered veterinary technician is either on the premises or quickly and easily available.

LD 1483 An Act to License Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard-of-hearing CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TREAT		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1483 is being carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature. The bill proposes to establish the Board of Licensure of American Sign Language, English Interpreting and Transliterating Professionals. Under the bill, to qualify for general licensure, a person must have at least three years of documented paid interpreting or transliteration experience with a minimum of 300 hours per year during the five years preceding the date of application and have at least 15 continuing education units approved by the board or college credit in interpreter education. Five years after the effective date of this chapter, for interpreters not previously licensed under this chapter, the requirement for licensure will be a minimum of an associates degree in interpreter education or the equivalent approved by the board.

This bill is subject to the requirement of Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 12015, subsection 3 that requires any joint standing committee of the Legislature that recommends to the Legislature the regulation of an occupational profession not previously regulated must include an evaluation of the need for regulation.

LD 1506 An Act to Provide Dealership Protection to Forestry, Construction and Utility Contracts ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JONES K		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1506 proposed to add dealers in forestry, construction or utility goods to the franchise laws for power equipment, machinery and appliances.

LD 1512 An Act Pertaining to the Real Estate Consumer's Right to Seller Disclosure Information ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CAMPBELL		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1512 proposed to require the owner of real property to make disclosures to prospective buyers of the property, similar to what is currently required of a real estate broker for the seller. The bill would have required the disclosure of any material defects in the property, the type of water and waste systems used, the type of insulation and whether there are or were any hazardous materials in or on the property. If an owner failed to make the required disclosures, the buyer of the property could, at the buyer's discretion, rescind the sales contract.