

# 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*

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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](http://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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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

21. Allows vanity plates to be issued for trucks registered up to 9,000 pounds gross vehicle weight and to semitrailers that do not exceed 2,000 pounds.
22. Allows a pickup truck with a semitrailer that has a registered weight of 2,000 pounds or less to be registered as a noncommercial vehicle, provided that the truck and trailer are used for noncommercial purposes.
23. Authorizes the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to require all motor carriers to display a United States Department of Transportation census number.
24. Requires a vehicle sold by a dealer to be accompanied by a certificate of title or salvage at the time of the vehicle's sale.
25. Clarifies that a mobile home dealer is not required to obtain heavy trailer dealer registration plates.
26. Provides licenses for automobile dealers to conduct operations and promotions at locations other than primary facilities.
27. Clarifies that a woods tractor that is exempt from the complete motor vehicle inspection requirements must be used solely for logging purposes.
28. Establishes that a person commits a Class E crime if that person knowingly disseminates information that is protected by state laws or rules that implement the Federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994.
29. Requires a person who seeks early reinstatement of a driver's license under the ignition interlock statutes to obtain an automobile insurance policy with \$300,000 limits for property damage and the injury or death of a person.

**LD 1476**

**An Act Making Unified and Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, Highway Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1998 and June 30, 1999**

**PUBLIC 25  
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'GARA DRISCOLL	OTP-AM	S-47

LD 1476 proposed to: Make allocations from the Highway Fund; make allocations from the Highway Fund representing reduction proposals or adjustments; amend the law to provide for the capitalization of the Local Road Assistance Program; make supplemental allocations from the Highway Fund; make supplemental allocations from the Federal Expenditures Fund; make supplemental allocations from the Other Special Revenue funds; make supplemental allocations from the Island Ferry Services Fund; make allocations from the Highway Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes; and make allocations from the Highway Fund as reductions to support approved reclassifications and range changes.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-47 )** proposed to clarify that only the Highway Fund allocations in Part A, section 1 are actually allocated. All other funds are provided for informational purposes only.

This amendment proposed to replace Part C of the bill. It proposed to require a report from the Commissioner of Transportation on the administration of the Local Road Assistance Program for fiscal year 1997-98 and fiscal year 1998-99.

This amendment proposed to add the following provisions to the original bill: Provide specific reduction proposals and program transfers for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the Department of Public Safety and the Department of the Secretary of State; provide specific allocations and reduction proposals by the Department of Transportation; provide specific position transfers by the Department of Transportation; make adjusting allocations and deallocations to the Federal Expenditures Fund; make adjusting allocations and deallocations to Other Special Revenue funds; make deallocations from the Motor Transport Service Fund; authorize the transfer of Highway Fund Salary Plan funds for unfunded actuarial liability obligations; authorize a consolidation of Building and Maintenance Accounts and requires the State Budget Officer to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation; provide nonlapsing language to allow personal services funds to carry forward in the Highway Fund Salary Plan; require prison labor to be used to construct a license plate storage facility on state property; increase title and reinstatement fees by \$5; and authorize a transfer from Collector Road Program funds to Highway Fund undedicated revenue.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 25 makes allocations from the Highway Fund; makes allocations from the Highway Fund representing reduction proposals or adjustments; requires a report from the Commissioner of Transportation on the administration of the Local Road Assistance Program for fiscal year 1997-98 and fiscal year 1998-99; makes supplemental allocations from the Highway Fund; makes supplemental allocations from the Federal Expenditures Fund; makes supplemental allocations from the Other Special Revenue funds; makes supplemental allocations from the Island Ferry Services Fund; makes allocations from the Highway Fund for approved reclassifications and range changes; makes allocations from the Highway Fund as reductions to support approved reclassifications and range changes; provides specific reduction proposals and program transfers for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the Department of Public Safety and the Department of the Secretary of State; provides specific allocations and reduction proposals by the Department of Transportation; provides specific position transfers by the Department of Transportation; makes adjusting allocations and deallocations to the Federal Expenditures Fund; makes adjusting allocations and deallocations to Other Special Revenue funds; makes deallocations from the Motor Transport Service Fund; authorizes the transfer of Highway Fund Salary Plan funds for unfunded actuarial liability obligations; authorizes a consolidation of Building and Maintenance Accounts and requires the State Budget Officer to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation; provides nonlapsing language to allow personal services funds to carry forward in the Highway Fund Salary Plan; requires prison labor to be used to construct a license plate storage facility on state property; increases title and reinstatement fees by \$5; and authorizes a transfer from Collector Road Program funds to Highway Fund undedicated revenue. This law takes effect July 1, 1997.

**LD 1480**

**An Act to Decriminalize Various Traffic Violations and Enhance Collectibility of Associated Penalties**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
MILLS

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted