

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

OPLA Staff:

John G. Kelley, Legislative Analyst

Jill Ippoliti, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207)287-1670



Maine State Legislature

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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

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

LD 1480 proposed to convert several motor vehicle violations that are currently crimes into traffic violations. It also proposed to clarify certain civil provisions concerning contesting a traffic infraction. Several maximum fines would have been adjusted to accommodate surcharges. The amount of time a parent has to show the court that a child safety seat has been acquired would have been reduced from 30 days to 20 days. The requirement that a fine be imposed for a separate violation in order for a fine to be imposed for violations of the seat belt law would have been repealed.

LD 1485 Resolve, to Require the Department of Transportation to Study the ONTP
Use of Culverts

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MCELROY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1485 proposed to require the Commissioner of Transportation to study the use of a culvert in the Town of Troy to determine a more efficient manner of controlling rainwater runoff.

LD 1504 An Act to Amend the Notification Requirements for Insurance ONTP
Companies and Towing Companies

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> VOLENIK	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1504 proposed to require towing companies to inform owners of a motor vehicle of all the towing and storage charges that are associated with towing the vehicle before the vehicle is towed. The bill also proposed to require the insurer of an insured motor vehicle that is involved in an accident to keep the owner and the driver of the motor vehicle apprised of any actions or communications related to the accident.

LD 1505 An Act to Preserve the Privacy of Commuters ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> VEDRAL	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1505 proposed to prohibit the use of information collected through an electronic toll collection system on the Maine Turnpike to track a person's movement. It also proposed to place limitations on the information that may be recorded on a person's electronic toll system account.

LD 1507 An Act to Change the Fine for Speeding in a School Zone ONTP

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