

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 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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LD 1507 proposed to create a fine for speeding in a school zone that is double the fine for speeding outside of a school zone.

LD 1534 **An Act to Increase the Speed Limit and Amend the Penalty Point System** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MACK	ONTP MAJ	
JENKINS	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1534 proposed to establish speed limits for different portions of the Maine Turnpike and the Interstate Highway System. The bill also proposed to direct the Secretary of State to modify the demerit point system for assessing points for speeding violations.

LD 1586 **An Act Regarding Reimbursement for Sand and Salt Storage Facility Construction** **PUBLIC 551**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIEH	OTP-AM	H-658
KILKELLY		

LD 1586 requires the Department of Transportation to make available funds for all constructed salt and sand storage projects built prior to June 30, 1997.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-658) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to expand the number of lower priority salt and sand storage facilities that may receive state reimbursement dollars initially targeted for higher priority facilities when those higher priority facilities fail to meet certain criteria necessary to obtain reimbursement funds.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 551 expands the number of lower priority salt and sand storage facilities that may receive state reimbursement dollars initially targeted for higher priority facilities when those higher priority facilities fail to meet certain criteria necessary to obtain reimbursement funds.

LD 1594 **An Act to Transfer State Ownership of Certain Railroad Rights-of-way, Create the Calais to Eastport Rail Authority and Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue in the Amount of \$4,500,000 to Fund Establishment of Freight Rail Service between Calais and Eastport** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODWIN		