

# 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  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

**JULY 1997**

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*Sen. William B. O'Gara*  
*Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell*

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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

5. Makes court review of out-of-home placement determination take place every 12 months pursuant to federal law;
6. Amends the Department of Corrections' confidentiality provision to facilitate receipt of federal funds;
7. Adds the term "deduction" to prisoner disciplinary statute pursuant to changes in good time;
8. Clarifies that persons transferred to the Department of Corrections from a county jail are transferred to the department, instead of to a specific facility; and
9. Clarifies that a juvenile who, prior to sentencing, is detained in any state facility is entitled to receive a day-for-day reduction from the juvenile's total required term of imprisonment. Currently, the law gives such credit to a juvenile who has spent time in a "correctional facility," which includes the Maine Youth Center but does not include the Northern Maine Regional Juvenile Detention Facility.

**LD 1522**

**An Act to Strengthen Juvenile Laws**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY D	ONTP	

LD 1522 proposed to make it possible to charge a juvenile with any adult crime. It would have made the following elements mandatory in every disposition: complete restitution for economic and physical loss, for which the juvenile's parents or legal custodians were jointly and severally liable; community service, overseen by local authorities; placement at the Maine Youth Center; and a letter of public apology. The bill proposed to require the courts to increase a penalty if, at the time of the offense, the juvenile were truant or had been previously adjudicated or convicted of harassment.

**LD 1524**

**An Act to Reinstate the Death Penalty**

**DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BENOIT	ONTP MAJ	
WATERHOUSE	OTP MIN	

LD 1524 proposed to reinstate the death penalty. A sentence of death could have been imposed if the murder caused the death of two or more people or if the victim were less than 14 years of age and had also been sexually assaulted.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-252)** was the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice. The amendment proposed to add an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.