

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
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

JULY 1997

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Sen. James D. Libby

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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

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 279 makes several changes in the budget approval process for Washington County. Chapter 279 does the following:

1. It limits municipalities to one officer serving at a time on the budget committee.
2. It requires the county commissioners to publish a comprehensive financial statement for the preceding year and to make copies available to the budget committee and the public.
3. It requires the county commissioners to meet with the budget committee before December 15 if the commissioners wish to make changes in the budget recommended by the committee.
4. It provides that between December 15 and December 30 the budget committee may adopt and transmit a budget to the county commissioners if the commissioners have not adopted a budget acceptable to the budget committee. By majority vote, the commissioners may change the committee's budget. If they do, the budget committee may reject the change or changes by a two-thirds vote of its membership.

Chapter 229 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 27, 1997.

LD 1602

An Act Regarding the Division of Safety and Environmental Services in the Bureau of General Services

PUBLIC 499

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAGGETT GAGNON	OTP-AM	S-288 S-424 MICHAUD

LD 1602 proposed that the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, through the Bureau of General Services, Division of Safety and Environmental Services provide asbestos, lead and indoor air quality assessment and mitigation services for public schools and state facilities. The bill provided funding for the division and allowed the division to charge a fee for its services. The bill established the Special Revenue Fund in the Division of Safety and Environmental Services, into which fees collected by the division and money received by the State in connection with claims relating to asbestos were to be deposited. Revenue in the fund must be used to provide necessary training and licensing of division employees, to purchase necessary equipment and to sample and test asbestos, lead and other indoor air contaminants.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-288) proposed to the following changes in the bill. It clarified that the services provided by the Division of Safety and Environmental Services for schools and state facilities are for air quality assessment and mitigation oversight. It removed the authorization for the division to assess fees for its services and the requirement that those fees be deposited in the Special Revenue Fund. It removed the appropriation section that provided funds for new positions in the division and for contractual services to be provided by consultants.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-424) proposed to eliminate the provision establishing the Special Revenue Fund and the provision dedicating money received in connection with claims relating to asbestos.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 499 establishes the Division of Safety and Environmental Services under the Bureau of General Services in the Department of Administrative and Financial Services as the local state agency responsible for asbestos, lead and indoor air quality matters and directs the division to provide asbestos, lead and air quality assessment and mitigation oversight services to public schools and state facilities.

LD 1605 An Act to Prohibit Towns from Canceling Health Insurance PUBLIC 419
Provided to Retired Employees

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
OTT	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-497

LD 1605 proposed to require a municipality to allow a retired former employee to remain enrolled in the municipality's health insurance plan if the retired employee pays the premiums.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-497) proposed to clarify that the premium rate that a retired municipal employee must pay in order to be kept on the municipality's health care plan is the group rate. It also corrected a headnote, and added a mandate preamble and a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 419 requires a municipality to allow a retired former employee to remain enrolled in the health insurance plan offered by the municipality if the retiree pays the group rate premiums for that coverage.

LD 1610 Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Designate Outstanding Maine RESOLVE 64
Citizens Whose Portraits Are to Be Displayed in the State House

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LEMKE	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-328 H-452 AHEARNE

LD 1610 proposed to establish the Maine Commission on Outstanding Citizens to designate outstanding Maine citizens to be honored by display of a portrait in the State House.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-328) proposed to add a member from the State House and Capitol Park Commission and to replace the appointment from the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs with an appointment from the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. The amendment also added an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-452) proposed to require the legislative member of the Commission to be appointed by the presiding officers of the Legislature.

Enacted law summary