

# 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  
JUDICIARY**

**JULY 1997**

***MEMBERS:***

*Sen. Susan W. Longley, Chair*

*Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III*

*Sen. John W. Benoit*

*Rep. Richard H. Thompson, Chair*

*Rep. Elizabeth Watson*

*Rep. David Etnier*

*Rep. Joseph M. Jabar, Sr.*

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*Rep. Richard A. Nass*

*Rep. G. Paul Waterhouse*

***Staff:***

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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](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:

- 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 1583**

**An Act to Establish the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act**

**CARRIED OVER**

Sponsor(s)  
TAYLOR

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1583 proposes to replace the existing Uniform Anatomical Gift Act with the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act adopted by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws in 1987. This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.

**LD 1587**

**An Act to Establish Procedures for the Release of Confidential Information**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
BUNKER

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1587 proposed to permit a person to inspect and copy specific information in the custody of the State about that person except that the State would have been authorized to deny an inspection or copying request if the information about the person relates to an ongoing civil or criminal investigation and is confidential under any other law. The bill also proposed to provide for permitted times of inspection and associated procedures and costs. The bill also proposed to require a person seeking inspection or copying of the information to release the State from any liability based on the information sought.

**LD 1613**

**An Act to Allow the Child Support Obligor the Right to Provide Regularly Scheduled Child Care**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
LANE  
KIEFFER

Committee Report  
ONTP MAJ  
OTP-AM MIN

Amendments Adopted

LD 1613 proposed to allow the nonprimary residential care provider, or either party in case primary residential care is shared equally, to provide child care personally, by a close relative or by less expensive methods if it is consistent with the best interests of the child. If a court did not allow child care under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19, section 316 or Title 19-A, section 2006, it would have been required to state the reasons in writing or on the record.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-606)** (Minority Report) proposed to revise the language to make clear that child support orders issued under the child support guidelines may place the responsibility for the provision of child care be placed on both parents or on the parent not providing primary residential care. It also proposed to clarify that the provisions apply to court orders and orders issued by hearing officers.