

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

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Sen. Vinton E. Cassidy

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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:

<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 & 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&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & 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

LD 1594 proposes to create the Calais to Eastport Rail Authority to establish freight rail service between Calais and Eastport. The bill transfers to the authority the Department of Transportation's interest in the existing rail line between Calais and Ayers Junction. It also transfers the Department of Transportation's interest in the existing rail line between Ayers Junction and the Hancock County line to those municipalities through which the line runs. The bill also proposes a \$4,500,000 million bond issue for use by the authority in establishing freight rail service between Calais and Eastport. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

LD 1607 Resolve, to Name the New Bangor-Brewer Replacement Bridge RESOLVE 22

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CAMPBELL MURRAY	OTP	

LD 1607 proposed to name the new Bangor-Brewer replacement bridge the Penobscot Bridge, followed by that name in parenthesis in the official language of the Penobscot Nation.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 22 names the new Bangor-Brewer replacement bridge the Penobscot Bridge, followed by that name in parenthesis in the official language of the Penobscot Nation.

LD 1617 An Act to Amend the Sensible Transportation Policy Act ONTP

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

LD 1617 proposed to amend the Sensible Transportation Policy Act so that transportation planning, capital investment and project decisions require, for all significant highway construction or reconstruction projects, an evaluation of highway, bridge, air, water and rail transportation alternatives only, rather than an evaluation of all kinds of reasonable transportation alternatives. The bill also proposed to repeal the provision that requires transportation planning decisions, capital investment decisions and project decisions to reduce the State's reliance on foreign oil and promote reliance on energy-efficient forms of transportation and it proposed to repeal a provision relating to public hearings.

LD 1641 An Act Regarding the Taking of Tolls on the Maine Turnpike ONTP

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

LD 1641 proposed to require Maine Turnpike toll booth operators to let vehicles pass without collecting a toll whenever there are more than 15 vehicles waiting to pay the toll or there is more than a five-minute delay traveling

from entrance to exit. The bill also proposed to require toll booth operators to say "thank you" when taking a toll or pass.

LD 1659 **An Act Concerning the Disclosure of Motor Vehicle Records** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'GARA		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1659 proposed to implement the provisions of the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994, Public Law 103-202, which prohibits states from disclosing personal information contained in motor vehicle records except under certain circumstances. It would have prohibited the Bureau of Motor Vehicles from disclosing personal information except for use in connection with matters of motor vehicle or driver safety and theft; motor vehicle emissions; motor vehicle product alterations, recalls or advisories; performance monitoring of motor vehicles and dealers by motor vehicle manufacturers; and removal of nonowner records from the original owner records of motor vehicle manufacturers.

The bill also proposed penalties for unauthorized disclosure of personal information.

LD 1660 **An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws Concerning Inspection Stations** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'GARA		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1660 proposed to amend the motor vehicle inspection laws by:

1. Establishing the Board of Maine Motor Vehicle Inspectors to assist the Chief of the State Police in the administration of the vehicle inspection laws.
2. Repealing the requirement that the catalytic converter and filler neck restriction be inspected and meet inspection standards.
3. Repealing the \$6 inspection fee and instead allow a station to charge for one-half hour of its posted labor rate.
4. Requiring that for a vehicle that does not pass inspection, the owner be given a defect report and the vehicle have placed on it a failure sticker. The owner would have one month to repair the defect that caused the vehicle to fail inspection.
5. Requiring all inspection mechanics to obtain Institute of Automotive Service Excellence, ASE, certification and to attend an inspection seminar. New applicants and mechanics renewing their certification would be required to have ASE certification. Currently certified inspection mechanics who do not have ASE certification would need to obtain certification by November 1, 1998.