

# 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  
LEGAL AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

**JULY 1997**

***Staff:***

***Deborah C. Friedman, Legislative Analyst  
Roy W. Lenardson, Legislative Analyst***

***Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207)287-1670***

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Sen. Norman K. Ferguson, Jr.***

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Rep. Joseph H. Bigl  
Rep. Duane J. Belanger***



**Maine State Legislature**

**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013  
Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**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 1630 proposed to prohibit a member of the Legislature from soliciting campaign contributions from any person during a legislative biennium, and would have prohibited any person from making campaign contributions during that time. This bill also would have limited to \$1,000 the amount a corporation, association, political committee or other committee may contribute in support of the candidacy of one person. (See LD 1882)

**LD 1650                      An Act to Optimize the Utility of the 5 Maine Veterans' Homes                      INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WINGLASS RUHLIN	OTP-AM	H-651

LD 1650 proposed to allow the Maine Veterans' Homes, not the Department of Human Services, to receive and retain the stipend provided by the federal Veterans' Administration and awarded to each Maine veteran who served on active duty in the armed forces during stipulated wartime periods. The bill would have extended the opportunity for admission to Maine Veterans' Homes to all Maine veterans who have recorded at least 180 days of active service and are awarded honorable discharges and to the "gold star" parents of armed service members who died in combat or as a consequence of wounds received on active duty in the armed forces.

The bill was moved into LD 1138, Part P in the supplemental budget bill. LD 1138 incorporates all of the language in 1650 except that it removes any references to eligibility standards for Medicaid and LD 1138 provides the necessary funding for the stipend funds.

**LD 1655                      An Act to Prohibit Fund-raising Efforts and Certain Contributions to Legislators while the Legislature is in Session                      ONTP**

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

LD 1655 proposed to prohibit members of the Legislature from soliciting and lobbyists, lobbyist associates and their employers from making campaign contributions during a legislative session, except for solicitation for bona fide social events hosted for nonpartisan purposes. (See LD 1882)

**LD 1676                      An Act to Preserve Live Harness Racing in the State                      CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 1676 proposes to authorize the operation at existing regulated pari-mutuel facilities of video lottery terminals and establishes the State's share of net terminal income at 40%. This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.