

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
BANKING AND INSURANCE**

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III, Chair

Sen. Robert E. Murray, Jr.

Sen. I. Joel Abromson

Rep. Jane W. Saxl, Chair

Rep. Julie Winn

Rep. Thomas M. Davidson

Rep. Christopher P. O'Neil

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Rep. Joseph G. Carleton, Jr.

Rep. Sumner A. Jones, Jr.

Rep. Arthur F. Mayo III

Rep. Joseph Bruno

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).

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

Part B of the bill proposed to establish the position of Commissioner of Health Security. It establishes the pay range for the commissioner as range 89.

Part C of the bill proposed to repeal all sales tax exemptions and increases income tax rates to raise revenue to implement the Maine Single-payor Health Care Plan. The bill also requires that this legislation be submitted to the voters of the State for acceptance through referendum.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-447) is the minority report and proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill. Committee Amendment "A" was not adopted.

LD 1754 **An Act Regarding Hospital Charges for Physicians Not Participating in Health Maintenance Organizations** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GERRY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1754 proposed to require hospitals to charge the same fees for hospital privileges to physicians participating in health maintenance organizations and those physicians that do not participate. The bill also proposed to require hospitals to charge the same fees for hospital services to a person participating in a health maintenance organization plan and a person that is not participating and prohibits a health maintenance organization plan from prohibiting an enrollee to obtain services from nonparticipating hospitals.

LD 1775 **An Act to Promote Access to Health Care** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAGGETT		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1775 proposed to prohibit health care providers from discriminating against patients based upon the patient's source of payment.

LD 1783 **An Act to Clarify the Laws Concerning Claims Settlement Practices** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> VIGUE JENKINS		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1783 proposes to do the following.

Part A sets forth those practices of insurers that would constitute unfair claims practices under the Maine Insurance Code. Part A is based in part on the 1990 Unfair Claims Settlement Practices Model Act of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. The intent of the law is to provide a regulatory framework for the Bureau of Insurance to act in those cases where unfair claim practices arise. The law does not create a private right