

# 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  
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

JULY 1997

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*Sen. Anne M. Rand*

*Sen. Bruce W. MacKinnon*

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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

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CIANCHETTE		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1831 proposed to amend the laws governing debt collection activities by prohibiting a debt collector from contacting a debtor under the following circumstances:

1. When the debtor was represented by an attorney;
2. By using forms that give the appearance of judicial process;
3. By indicating that an obligation may be increased by attorney's fees;
4. By collecting interest unless approved by a court order;
5. By indicating that nonpayment of the debt will result in arrest; and
6. By attempting to collect the debt by abusive collection techniques.

The bill also specified the days a debt collector may call a consumer; calls on Sundays would have been prohibited.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DAVIDSON		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-437
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LD 1844 proposed to provide that for purposes of the Professional Service Corporation Act, optometrists licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, chapter 34-A and ophthalmologists licensed under Title 32, chapter 48 would be considered to render the same professional service in order to allow those professionals to be shareholders of the same professional corporation.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-437)** accomplished the same goal of allowing optometrists and ophthalmologists to practice together in a professional corporation without defining their services to be the same. A technical reference was corrected in the amendment as an ophthalmologist may be licensed under the Board of Licensure in Medicine, Title 32, chapter 48, or under the Board of Osteopathic Licensure, Title 32, chapter 36.

#### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 313 provides that for the purposes of the Professional Services Corporation Act, optometrists and ophthalmologists may organize and become the sole shareholders of the same professional corporation in order to provide their respective complementary professional services.