

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
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Jill M. Goldthwait

Sen. James D. Libby

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Staff:

Roy W. Lenardson, Legislative Analyst

Deborah C. Friedman, Legislative Analyst

David C. Elliott, Principal Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207)287-1670



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).

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>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
AMERO	OTP	

LD 1851 proposed to clarify that before a proposed unaccepted way is considered subject to vacation both of the stated conditions must be met. The way may not have been constructed or used as a way and the way may not have been accepted by the specified dates.

The bill also proposed to allow a municipality to accept a proposed way as a public, utility or recreational easement as well as for motor vehicle purposes in order to avoid an order of vacation.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 386 clarifies that before a proposed unaccepted way is considered subject to vacation both of the stated conditions must be met. The way may not have been constructed or used as a way and the way may not have been accepted by the specified dates.

The bill also allows a municipality to accept a proposed way as a public, utility or recreational easement as well as for motor vehicle purposes in order to avoid an order of vacation.

An Act to Authorize Hancock County to Hold a Referendum Election in November 1997 on a Bond Issue of \$6,000,000 to Construct a New Jail and to Provide Necessary Renovations to the Courthouse to Comply with State Mandates

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POVICH	OTP-AM MAJ	H-586
GOLDTHWAIT	ONTP MIN	

LD 1860 proposed to authorize the Hancock County commissioners to seek approval from county voters to raise \$6,000,000 for construction of a jail facility at the Hancock County courthouse and renovations of the courthouse according to state mandates.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-586) proposed to change the question to the voters to clarify that the bond issue may not exceed \$6,000,000. The amendment also adds a mandate preamble and a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 40 authorizes the Hancock County commissioners to seek approval from county voters to raise \$6,000,000 for the construction of a jail facility at the Hancock County courthouse and renovations of the courthouse according to state mandates. Chapter 40 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 9, 1997.