

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
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Susan W. Longley
Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell

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Staff:

Jane Orbeton, Legislative 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

See also LD 1904, Public Law 1997, chapter 560.

LD 1904

An Act to Discourage Smoking, Provide Tax Relief and Improve the Health of Maine Citizens

PUBLIC 560

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MITCHELL E		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1904 proposed to do the following.

1. Increase the tax on cigarettes 37¢ per pack to 74¢ and create a Tobacco Tax Relief Fund to receive the revenue from the increase in the tax on cigarettes. Except for the funding of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, no other revenue from the increase would be expended without the recommendation of the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over tax matters and the approval of the Legislature.
2. Establish the Maine Commission on Children's Health Care to assess the current unmet health care needs of the children of this State and make recommendations on fulfilling those needs.
3. Establish the Children's Health Reserve Account to provide \$8,000,000 in funding for children's health services, as recommended by the State Budget Officer and approved by the Governor.
4. Establish the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program to prevent the State's youths from using tobacco products and to assist youths and adults who currently smoke cigarettes and use other tobacco products to discontinue the use of tobacco products. The program would be funded through a portion of the revenue from the increase in tax on cigarettes.
5. Establish the Task Force on Improving Access to Prescription Drugs for the Elderly to determine and recommend methods for improving access to prescription drugs for elderly citizens of the State.
6. Establish the Health Care Fund for Maine Citizens to receive any award or settlement that results from an action against the tobacco industry.

House Amendment "A" (H-772) proposed to replace the bill and to increase the penalties for merchants who sell tobacco to minors and the penalties for minors and who smoke in public. The amendment was not accepted.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 560 comprises the provisions of the bill. See bill description.