

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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118th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1997

Legislative Document

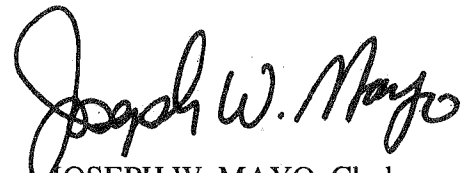
No. 835

H.P. 610

House of Representatives, February 6, 1997

**Resolve, Instructing the Workers' Compensation Board to Study and
Make Recommendations Regarding the Occupational Disease Law.**

Reference to the Committee on Labor suggested and ordered printed.


JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative WINSOR of Norway.

2 **Sec. 1. Study of Occupational Disease Law. Resolved:** That the
Workers' Compensation Board shall study the unique issues
involved in providing workers' compensation benefits to employees
4 under the Occupational Disease Law and make recommendations as
necessary to ensure that the purposes of the Workers'
6 Compensation Act of 1992 are achieved with respect to
occupational diseases. The particular topics to study must
8 include issues related to proof of causation when the
occupational disease is thought to arise from exposure to
10 hazardous materials; unique problems arising when there is a
prolonged period between exposure to the hazardous material and
12 the onset of disease; apportionment of liability for
occupational diseases; and the provision of benefits in cases
14 where the employee has not lost any time from work. The Workers'
Compensation Board may rely on its staff to conduct this study
16 and may also request the assistance without pay of any other
person or group in providing information for this study; and be
18 it further

20 **Sec. 2. Report and recommendations. Resolved:** That the
Workers' Compensation Board shall report by January 1, 1999 to
22 the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over labor
matters on the study conducted pursuant to section 1. The report
24 must contain a discussion of the issues, alternative approaches
that may be taken to address any problems identified and the
26 board's recommendations, if any. The board may submit with its
report legislation necessary to implement its recommendations.

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SUMMARY

32 This resolve directs the Worker' Compensation Board to study
certain unique issues involved in providing workers' compensation
34 benefits to employees under the Occupational Disease Law and make
recommendations as necessary to ensure the purposes of the
36 Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 are achieved with respect to
occupational diseases. The Workers' Compensation Board must
38 report by January 1, 1999 to the joint standing committee having
jurisdiction over labor matters.