

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JUNE 1984

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the Second Regular Session of the 111th Legislature. The summaries are arranged alphabetically, and indexed separately by committee.

<u>LD</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>	(Committee Report) <u>DISPOSITION</u>
1851	AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE PROCEDURES TO APPEAL A DECISION OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION DIVISION	Trafton	OTP-A PL 1983, C. 643

SUMMARY: LD 1851 with Committee Amendment "A" states that copies of decisions being appealed need not be certified copies either on an appeal from a Commissioner's decision to the Appellate Division or the Division to the Law Court. The amendment deleted a provision in the original bill that would have changed the starting date of the 20-day appeal period from receipt of notice of the decision to the filing of the decision.

1902	AN ACT TO AMEND THE CESSATION OF EMPLOYMENT LAW	Tuttle Norton	OTP-A PL 1983, C. 652
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SUMMARY: LD 1902, as amended by Committee Amendment "A" and Senate Amendment "A", allows the Department of Labor to bring a civil suit to collect unpaid wages owed to an employee in the same proceeding as it brings suit to collect a civil penalty from the employer. The bill removes the references to a criminal cause of action to collect fines because under Title 17-A all statutory prohibitions that provide for fines but not imprisonment are automatically civil violations rather than crimes. The Department submitted the bill because some judges did not allow joinder of both causes in one proceeding.

1921	AN ACT TO PREVENT UNFAIR CHARGES FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR WORK	Beaulieu Hayes Gauvreau Zirkilton	OTP-A PL 1983, C. 627 (EMERG.)
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SUMMARY: The bill as amended by Committee Amendment "A" makes it unlawful for employers to charge job applicants a fee for applying for employment with that employer. It does not prohibit employment agencies from charging their customers a fee.

1926	AN ACT TO CLARIFY AUTHORITY AND LIMIT LIABILITY ISSUES IN COMMUNITY SERVICE WORK PROGRAMS	Trafton	LV/WD(ACC.)
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SUMMARY: In some cases the courts order defendants to work off fines in community service work programs, but some municipalities and charitable organizations are reluctant to accept this because of concerns over potential workers' compensation and tort liability. The bill and proposed new draft presented by the sponsor at the hearing remove workers' compensation coverage from these defendants and order that despite exceptions to the sovereign and charitable immunity doctrine, no governmental or charitable entity may be held liable to the defendants except to the extent of insurance coverage obtained by the Department of Corrections.