

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
115TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
LABOR**

**AUGUST 1991**

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
AUGUST 1991**

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature. The volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H - 584 or S - 222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

<b>PUBLIC XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<b>P&amp;S XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<b>RESOLVE XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
<b>CON RES XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<b>CARRIED OVER</b>	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
<b>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</b>	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<b>ONTP</b>	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
<b>LVWD</b>	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
<b>INDEF PP</b>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<b>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</b>	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<b>VETO SUSTAINED</b>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
<b>UNSIGNED</b>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<b>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</b>	<i>Action incomplete when 1st session ended</i>

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

Several bills providing for premium pay on Sundays similar to LD 671 were considered by the Committee; LD 172 was carried over.

**LD 676      An Act to Allow Unemployment Compensation Benefits to be Payable to Individuals Who are Forced to Leave Employment to Protect Their Health and Safety      PUBLIC 560**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PINEAU HASTINGS ESTY CATHCART	OTP-AM	H-405

**SUMMARY**

LD 676 modified the voluntary leaving section of the Employment Security Law and allowed the payment of benefits to individuals who are forced to leave employment when their health or safety is threatened outside of the workplace. The bill also restructured the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 1193, subsection 1, to make it easier to read and reworded the "leaving in good faith" exception to state its meaning more clearly.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-405) limited the original bill, allowing the payment of unemployment benefits to individuals who are forced to leave employment due to domestic abuse and added a definition of domestic abuse to the unemployment compensation law. It also added a fiscal note.

**LD 692      An Act to Clarify the Definition of Return to Suitable Employment in the Maine Workers' Compensation Act      ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MCHENRY RUHLIN ESTY MARTIN J	ONTP	

**SUMMARY**

This bill provided that when an employee is utilizing a vocational rehabilitation plan under the Office of Employment Rehabilitation and the employer and employee settle the underlying workers' compensation claim, the employee is deemed to have returned to suitable employment. The employer would be liable to the Employment Rehabilitation Fund for money spent on the plan.

**LD 778      An Act to Encourage Health Insurance in Public Contracts      ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MCKEEN CONLEY	ONTP	

**SUMMARY**

LD 778 required the provision of health insurance for laborers on public works projects.