

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:

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

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
RUHLIN	OTP-AM	H-323
RAND		
TITCOMB		
MARTIN J		

SUMMARY

LD 934 provided for a variety of new workplace requirements for employers of VDT operators, including work station standards, work breaks, and leaves for visions examinations. Violations of the new provisions were governed by the Whistleblowers' Protection Act.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-323) replaced the original bill and made the education and training requirements of Maine Revised Statutes Title 26, section 252 applicable to all employers with 2 or more VDT terminals at one work location. Employers with fewer than 5 terminals could provide training in writing only. It also added a fiscal note.

LD 968 An Act to Continue the Dislocated Worker Benefit Program

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
ESTY	OTP-AM	S-228
CLARK M		S-341
RAND		
MARTIN J		

SUMMARY

This bill accomplished the following:

1. It increased the unemployment compensation taxable wage base from \$7,000 to \$8,000 in calendar year 1991 and established it as 42% of the State's average weekly wage thereafter;
2. It created the Job Training Fund to receive and distribute employer contributions to the STAR and ASPIRE job training programs;
3. It amended the definition of "dislocated worker" used to determine eligibility for dislocated worker benefits so that it would be consistent with the definition of that term in the federal Job Training Partnership Act and repealed the current language in the program requiring that it sunset in February 1992 or when the unemployment compensation trust fund reserve multiple falls below .245; and
4. It added an additional contribution rate schedule and a new fund benefit ratio determination to the existing schedule to provide greater solvency protection to the Unemployment Compensation Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-228) replaced the original bill and extended the sunset of the dislocated worker benefit program from February 1, 1992 to February 1, 1994 and clarified that the program discontinues if the reserve multiple of the trust fund falls below .245, but becomes effective again when the reserve multiple is above .245. It also added a fiscal note.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-341) removed the emergency preamble and the emergency clause of the bill.