

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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Sen. Gerard P. Conley, Jr.
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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.

LD 1563 An Act to Support Occupational Health Services**ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)
 KANY
 COLLINS
 CONLEY
 GWADOSKY

COMMITTEE REPORT
 ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**SUMMARY**

This bill required that, through the use of the Safety Education and Training Fund, the Department of Labor must support the development of a nonprofit statewide center to provide training, consultation and resources aimed at preventing work-related illness and injury. The center would provide clinical education and training for health professionals in occupational health.

LD 1582 An Act Concerning Actions for Damages Resulting from Violations of Unemployment and Workers' Compensation Laws by Bidders on Construction Contracts

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
 CONLEY

COMMITTEE REPORT
 ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**SUMMARY**

This bill permitted a suit for damages by contractors whose competitive bid on construction projects were not successful due to another bidder's knowing failure to pay unemployment compensation contributions or to secure workers' compensation insurance.

LD 1594 An Act to Improve the Maine Workers' Compensation System**ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)
 HASTINGS
 WHITCOMB
 BRAUN
 CAHILL P

COMMITTEE REPORT
 ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**SUMMARY**

This bill contained the following changes in the workers' compensation system recommended by the Governor's Task Force on Workers' Compensation. It created incentives and deductibles, and granted to the Superintendent of Insurance rulemaking authority, to reward employers with good safety records, reduce premiums, and reduce the residual market. It excluded fringe benefits from the wage calculation. It created an independent medical examiner system and a medical review/case management system for lengthy or high cost cases. It limited physician choice and medical testing. It required employment to be the predominant cause of injury/illness. It defined intoxication at .04 blood alcohol. It prohibited lump sum settlements, provided for notice to employers of settlements, and allowed limits on the impact of settlements on an employers' experience rating factor. It limited the length and cost of rehabilitation plans and required the administrator to develop rules for the assessment/approval of plans. It capped attorneys' fees.

It altered procedures as follows: changed the 44-day rule to 60 days, eliminated the need for medical releases, replaced the maximum medical improvement concept with a 430 week cap on benefits, shortened the statute of limitations from 10 years to 3 years, created a system of automatic discontinuances under certain circumstances, established an apportionment arbitration system, and eliminated notice of injury for medical only claims. It required the Superintendent to commence a hearing to determine the bill's effect on rates.