

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
116TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
LABOR

JULY 1993

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**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES**

**JULY 1993**

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.

The committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. 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:

<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>P&amp;S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill carried over to Second Session</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
<i>ENACTMENT FAILED</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference formed but unable to agree</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</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.

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

4693NRG

**LD 1163 An Act Repealing Advisory Boards on Labor Matters**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

ONTP

**SUMMARY**

The bill would have repealed the Commission on Safety and Health in the Maine Workplace, the State Advisory Council, the Displaced Homemakers Advisory Council, and the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. This bill was submitted in compliance with Public Law 1991, chapter 844, section 8, which requires the Secretary of State to submit legislation repealing all advisory boards and commissions.

**LD 1184 An Act Concerning Independent Contractors and the Responsibilities of Landowners under the Workers' Compensation Laws**

PUBLIC 120  
EMERGENCY

**SPONSOR(S)**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

DUTREMBLE D  
CIANCHETTE  
GOULD R A

OTP-AM

S-108

**SUMMARY**

This bill makes an independent contractor predetermination in the context of wood harvesting activities binding for the purpose of subsequent workers' compensation claims and exempts the landowner from liability if a predetermination of independent contractor status is made. It requires that the predetermination is valid for only one year or the duration of the contract, whichever is shorter and the bill establishes a conclusive presumption that the predetermination is correct. The bill requires that notice be given to all parties before a predetermination is made. It also requires the Workers' Compensation Board to review the effects of this bill and report back in November, 1993.

The Committee Amendment (S-108) clarifies that the landowner's liability applies only to the employees of a wood harvesting contractor and provides that the landowner may be exempted from liability by getting a predetermination only if the contract with the wood harvester expressly states that the contractor may not hire any employees without first providing the certificate of insurance to the landowner. The amendment also removes the requirement of notice to the parties at least 10 days before the predetermination is made and corrects an incorrect cross reference in the paragraph creating the conclusive presumption. The amendment also requires the Workers' Compensation Board to include in its report information on predeterminations made and prosecutions for attempts to circumvent liability. The amendment repeals Public Law 1993, chapter 65 (LD 498) which transferred responsibility for making the predeterminations from the Department of Labor to the Workers' Compensation Board and reenacts it with an effective date of July 1, 1993.

**LD 1200 An Act Concerning Unemployment Benefits for Certain School Employees**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

OLIVER

ONTP

**SUMMARY**

This bill would have amended the Employment Security Law so that certain employees working in an educational institution could be eligible for unemployment benefits during periods when the school is not