

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR

MAY 1994

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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

MAY 1994

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, 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

P&S XXX

RESOLVE XXX

CON RES XXX

EMERGENCY

ONTP

INDEF PP

FAILED ENACTMENT

FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT

FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT

DIED BETWEEN BODIES

CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE

VETO SUSTAINED

UNSIGNED

DIED ON ADJOURNMENT

Chapter # of enacted Public Law

Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law

Chapter # of enacted Resolve

Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses

Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days

Ought Not to Pass report accepted

Bill Indefinitely Postponed

Bill failed to get majority vote

Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote

Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote

House & Senate disagree; bill died

Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died

Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Not signed by Governor within 10 days

Action incomplete when session ended; bill died

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If you have any suggestions or comments on the summaries, please let us know.

5581LHS

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

LD 1726 An Act to Modify the Workers' Compensation Board Assessment

**PUBLIC 619
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)

RUHLIN
HANDY

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

H-903

SUMMARY

This bill amends the procedure for assessing and collecting the assessment on state employers for funding the operations of the Workers' Compensation Board. Under this bill, insurers collect up to 1.7% of a workers' compensation premium from insureds and remit it on a quarterly basis. The assessment continues to be a separate charge on premium notices. The Workers' Compensation Board may fluctuate the assessment up to 1.7% in order to ensure that it collects no more than \$50,000 over the \$6,000,000 cap currently imposed under the law. Self-insured employers continue to be assessed, as they are currently, and pay a calculated assessment by June 1st of each year. The bill requires the Workers' Compensation Board to calculate the assessment so that it appropriately reflects the market share of the insured and self-insured markets.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-903) clarifies the dates on which insurers are required to pay the assessments and limits the use of quarterly payments to those insurance companies or associations with an annual assessment of more than \$5,000. The amendment removes a reference to the cap on the assessment expressed as 1.7% of premiums but does not alter the statutory limit on the dollar amount that may be collected through this assessment. The amendment provides that for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1994, the distribution of the total assessment between insurance companies and self-insured employers must be based on the share of disabling cases attributable to each group. The Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation Board and the Superintendent of Insurance are directed to study alternative methods of equitably distributing the assessment between insurance companies and self-insured employers and to make a recommendation by January 15, 1995. The amendment also adds a fiscal note and provides that the Risk Management Division is authorized to insure service delivery areas designated under the Jobs Training Partnership Act.

LD 1730 An Act to Establish Preapprenticeship Programs

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)

CARROLL

COMMITTEE REPORT

ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have permitted the State Apprenticeship and Training Council to approve the establishment of the preapprenticeship programs that provide training and on-the-job experience necessary to enter an apprenticeship program. These programs could be approved only for sponsors who also have an approved apprenticeship program. The bill also would have prevented the displacement of any existing employee by a preapprenticeship program.