

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR**

JULY 1997

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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
August 1997

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill carried over to Second Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 26, 1997 and September 19, 1997 for the First Special Session.

David E. Boulter, Director
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**An Act to Permit Teachers to Transfer Retirement System
Creditable Service Earned as a Teacher's Aide while Employed by a
School and Covered by a Participating Local District**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DRISCOLL CASSIDY	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-177
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LD 1027 proposed to allow teachers covered under the retirement system to include in creditable service and earnable compensation employment and earnings as a teacher's aide with a participating local district that is a school administrative unit.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-177) proposed the following changes in the bill:

1. It authorized any former teacher's aide or former, present or future Education Technician I who becomes a teacher to purchase retirement service credit for teacher's aide or Education Technician I employment.
2. It required the teacher to pay to the retirement system the actuarial equivalent of the portion of the retirement benefit based on the time being purchased so that purchase is cost-neutral to the retirement system.
3. It limited use of the service credit purchased under the bill to increasing retirement service benefits so that the credit may not be used for any other purpose such as for vesting or qualification for early retirement.
4. It imposed additional conditions on the purchase of service credit under the bill if some or all of the teacher's Education Technician I or teacher's aide employment was under a participating local district in the retirement system.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 161 authorizes a former teacher's aide or an Education Technician I who becomes a teacher member of the Maine State Retirement System to purchase retirement service credit for the time employed as a teacher's aide or Education Technician I. In purchasing that credit the teacher must pay the actuarial equivalent cost of the increased benefit. The credit purchased may be used only to increase retirement benefits.

An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to Vesting in the Maine State Retirement System CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HATCH	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1100 proposes to lower the vesting period under the Maine State Retirement System from 10 to five years for state employees, teachers and Legislators.