

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
AND
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR

MAY 1998

MEMBERS:

Sen. Mary R. Cathcart, Chair
Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat
Sen. S. Peter Mills

Rep. Pamela H. Hatch, Chair
Rep. Roland B. Samson
Rep. Brian Bolduc
Rep. Joseph E. Clark
Rep. Benjamin L. Rines, Jr.
Rep. Stephen S. Stanley
Rep. Henry L. Joy
Rep. Steven M. Joyce
Rep. Robert E. Pendleton, Jr.
Rep. Russell P. Treadwell

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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 1998

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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:

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

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

LD 1994**An Act to Establish a Migrant and Immigrant Worker Assistance Office in Central Maine****PUBLIC 620**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LEMAIRE	OTP-AM MAJ	H-869
RAND	ONTP MIN	

LD 1994 proposed to require the Bureau of Labor Standards, within the Department of Labor, to establish and fund a migrant and immigrant worker outreach project to assist migrant and immigrant workers in understanding and exercising their employment rights and responsibilities.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-869) was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, and it proposed to replace the bill and change the title. The amendment proposed to require the Department of Labor, rather than the Bureau of Labor Standards, to establish a migrant and immigrant worker assistance outreach project to the extent possible within existing resources and to report back to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters by January 2, 1999, with an evaluation of the project. The amendment also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 620 requires the Department of Labor, to the extent possible within existing resources, to establish a migrant and immigrant worker outreach project to assist migrant and immigrant workers in understanding and exercising their employment rights and responsibilities. The law also requires the Department of Labor to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters by January 2, 1999, with an evaluation of the project.

LD 1997**An Act to Expand Access to Employment Security Data to Authorized Agents of Child Support Enforcement Agencies****PUBLIC 687**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PENDLETON R CATHCART	OTP	

LD 1997 proposed to bring Maine's unemployment compensation law in to conformity with the federal welfare reform act, Public Law 104-193, by granting access to employment security records to child support enforcement agencies and their authorized agents, as well as to agencies (and their agents) under contract with the state employment and job training agency. The bill also proposed to make it a Class E crime for any of those agencies or agents to make an unauthorized disclosure of confidential information contained in employment security records.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 687 brings Maine's unemployment compensation law into conformity with the federal welfare reform act, Public Law 104-193, by granting access to employment security records to child support enforcement agencies and their authorized agents, as well as to agencies (and their agents) under contract with the