

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

Staff:

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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

state employment and job training agency. The bill also makes 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.

LD 1999 **An Act Requiring the State to Pay a Portion of the Health Insurance Premium for Dependents of Retired State Employees** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RINES		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1999 proposed to require the State to pay 60 percent of the health insurance premium for dependent coverage for retired state employees.

LD 2007 **An Act to Establish the Administrative Operating Budget for the Maine State Retirement System for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1999** **P & S 73 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-870
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LD 2007 proposed the annual operating budget of the Maine State Retirement System for fiscal year 1998-99. The retirement system is required by law to present its annual operating budget to the Legislature for approval. The bill identified the retirement system's personal services costs and its costs for all other operating expenses. The bill also attributed the expenses of the system among General Fund, Non-General Fund and Participating Local District accounts.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-870) proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 73 is the Maine State Retirement System's annual operating budget for the 1998-99 fiscal year. Legislative approval of the annual budget is required by law. P & S Law chapter 73 was enacted as an emergency measure effective July 1, 1998.

LD 2096 **An Act to Give Collective Bargaining Rights to Legislative Employees** **PUBLIC 741**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LINDAHL		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-950 HATCH H-1166 HATCH
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LD 2096 proposed to amend the State Employees Labor Relations Act by authorizing legislative employees to collectively bargain regarding all matters relating to the relationship between the Legislature and its employees. The bill proposed to exclude from the definition of legislative employee any employee who: