

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR**

JULY 1999

MEMBERS:

Sen. Neria R. Douglass, Chair

Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain, III

Sen. S. Peter Mills

Rep. Pamela Henderson Hatch, Chair

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees
August 1999

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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:

CARRIED OVER.....Bill carried over to Second Regular Session
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
ENACTMENT FAILED..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

LD 159

An Act to Allow the Bureau of Labor Standards to Better Secure Payment of Unpaid Wages and Severance Pay for Workers

PUBLIC 28

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HATCH MICHAUD	OTP	

LD 159 proposed to create a process for the Bureau of Labor Standards to file a lien against the real or personal property of an employer who has failed to pay wages or severance pay due under state law.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Labor.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 28 creates a process by which the Bureau of Labor Standards may file a lien against the real or personal property of an employer who has failed to pay wages or severance pay due under state law.

LD 225

An Act to Amend the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 as it Relates to Compensation for Amputation of a Body Part

**VETO
SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODWIN	OTP A ONTP B OTP-AM C	S-380 LAFOUNTAIN

LD 225 proposed to amend the workers' compensation law to provide a lump sum benefit in addition to weekly benefits when the employee's injury is an amputation of a body part. The amount of the lump sum benefit would be equal to the amount of the weekly benefit times the period of presumed incapacity set forth in statute, which ranges from 8 weeks to 800 weeks.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-500), a minority report of the committee, proposed to make the change applicable only to injuries that occur on or after January 2, 2000 instead of injuries that occur on or after January 1, 1993. (not adopted)

Senate Amendment "A" (S-380) proposed to make the change applicable only to injuries that occur on or after January 2, 2000 instead of injuries that occur on or after January 1, 1993.

LD 261

Resolve, to Direct the Department of Labor to Determine the Cost of Providing Toll-free Telephone Access to All Mainers to Apply for Unemployment Compensation Benefits

RESOLVE 25

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODWIN	OTP-AM	H-259