

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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Rep. Gerald M. Davis

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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 349

An Act to Require the State to Pay Medicare Costs for Retired State Employees and Retired Teachers

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER DOUGLASS	ONTP	

LD 349 proposed that the Maine State Retirement System pay Medicare Part B premiums for state retirees and retired teachers. See also LD 919.

LD 357

An Act Raising the Minimum Wage

CARRIED OVER

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

LD 357 proposes to send to referendum a proposed increase in the minimum wage to \$5.50 per hour beginning January 1, 2000 and to \$6.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2001. The proposal also requires the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards to adjust the minimum wage by the percent change in the CPI, on January 1, 2002 and annually thereafter.

This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature.

LD 375

An Act to Amend the Obligations of Direct Reimbursement Employers

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE WHEELER G	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 375 proposed to repeal the provision of law that required employers who are direct reimbursement employers for unemployment benefits to make payments for employees who are ineligible for benefits when they terminate employment with that employer, if they later become eligible for benefits upon termination of subsequent employment.

Committee Amendment “A” (S-310), the minority report of the committee, proposed that wages earned during employment from which a person is discharged for gross or aggravated misconduct are removed from the employee’s base period wages under the unemployment compensation laws. Removal of wages may result in a lower unemployment benefit or disqualification for receipt of benefits. (not adopted)