

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

Rep. Roland B. Samson

Rep. Zachary E. Matthews

Rep. Roger D. Frechette

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Rep. Jay MacDougall

Rep. Adam Mack

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 380

An Act to Repeal Certain Changes Made to State Employee and Teacher Retirement Benefits

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BERRY D DAGGETT | ONTP | |

LD 380 proposed to repeal the 1.15% increase in employee contributions (increasing employee contributions to the current rate of 7.65% of earnable compensation) and reinstate the cost-of-living adjustment for retirement system members retiring before normal retirement age who had less than 10 years of creditable service on July 1, 1993. Those elements of the retirement plan for state employees and teachers were changed in 1993 as part of cost savings measures to balance the budget. See also LD’s 847 and 1622.

LD 400

An Act to Exempt Volunteer Fire Departments from Health and Safety Laws

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| PERKINS | ONTP | |

LD 400 proposed to exempt volunteer fire departments from state law establishing safety standards.

LD 423

An Act to Provide an Option for Employers to Pay Employees Biweekly

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BUCK GOLDTHWAIT | ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN | |

LD 423 proposed to repeal the law requiring employers to pay their employees weekly and to give employers the option to pay their employees biweekly. See also LD 292.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-349), the minority report of the committee, proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to amend the weekly pay law to allow camp counselors to be paid less often than weekly if the employee requested in writing to be paid less often. (not adopted)

LD 427

An Act to Raise the Minimum Wage

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| DUNLAP CATHCART | ONTP | |

LD 427 proposed to raise the minimum wage by 10 cents per hour.