

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 459

An Act to Ensure Equity in the Competitive Bidding Process for Construction Projects Supported by Public Funds

ONTP

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

LD 459 proposed to exclude union or nonunion status as a factor in the competitive bidding process for construction projects supported by public funds.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-302), the minority report of the committee, proposed to clarify that the bill does not impose a requirement for competitive bidding. It proposed to prohibit exclusion of bidders on the basis of union or nonunion status when competitive bidding is otherwise required. (not adopted)

LD 476

An Act to Prohibit the Negotiation of Severance Pay Lower than the State Minimum

PUBLIC 55

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MICHAUD STANLEY	OTP MAJ ONTP MIN	S-17 DOUGLASS

LD 476 proposed to prohibit employers from negotiating severance pay that is lower than that required by state law for employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements. Current law requires severance pay of one week's pay for each year of employment in the covered establishment.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-17) proposed to replace the bill to simplify the wording of the bill and to clarify that the exemptions from severance pay liability refer only to exemptions from liability imposed by that section of law, not to obligations imposed by other means such as through collective bargaining.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 55 prohibits employers from negotiating for a severance pay obligation that is lower than required by state law for employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements. Current law requires one week's pay for each year of employment in the covered establishment.

LD 506

An Act to Extend the Department of Labor Contribution Rate Table

ONTP

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

LD 506 proposed to extend the Department of Labor rate table for determining unemployment compensation contributions.