

# 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*

*Rep. Albion D. Goodwin*

*Rep. Christopher T. Muse*

*Rep. Russell P. Treadwell*

*Rep. Jay MacDougall*

*Rep. Adam Mack*

*Rep. Gerald M. Davis*

***Staff:***

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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](http://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 892**

**An Act to Transfer Responsibilities of the Advisory Committee on Improving Outdoor Recreational Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities to the Statewide Independent Living Council**

**PUBLIC 58**

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

LD 892 proposed to repeal the Advisory Committee on Improving Outdoor Recreational Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and transfer its responsibilities to the Statewide Independent Living Council administered by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services.

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

**Enacted law summary**

Public Law 1999, chapter 58 repeals the Advisory Committee on Improving Outdoor Recreational Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and transfers its responsibilities to the Statewide Independent Living Council administered by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services. The purpose of the transfer is to allow recreational opportunities, including indoor recreational activities, to be considered within the broader context of independent living issues.

**LD 919**

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

**INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAMSON DOUGLASS	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-358

LD 919 proposed to require the State to pay Medicare Part B premiums for state retirees and retired teachers.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-358)** proposed to clarify that it is the responsibility of the State to pay the Medicare Part B premiums required in the bill. The amendment also proposed to add an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

The bill died on the Appropriations Table.

**LD 944**

**An Act to Protect Victims of Crimes in the Workplace**

**PUBLIC 435**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAXL M CATHCART	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	H-642

LD 944 proposed to make discrimination in employment against victims of domestic violence a violation of the fair employment laws under the Maine Human Rights Act.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-642)**, the majority report of the committee, proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to allow an employee who is a victim of violent crime or abuse to take leave from work to participate in legal proceedings, obtain medical treatment and tend to other crises created by the violence or abuse. The amendment proposed that the