

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

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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.

violation. It also provides for a forfeiture of up to \$50 for failure to provide information requested by the department for the purpose of determining the prevailing wage and benefits.

LD 987 **An Act to Validate Voluntary Collective Bargaining Provisions that May Affect Educational Policies** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MILLS		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 987 proposes to allow teachers and public employers to include educational policy issues in their negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement. It provides that the parties are not required to negotiate on those issues, but provides that educational policy issues agreed to by the parties and included in the collective bargaining agreement would be enforceable. It also proposes to rewrite the section of law relating to these issues to clarify language.

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

LD 995 **Resolve, Directing the Maine State Retirement System to Provide Each Member with a Statement of Account No Later Than December 31, 1999** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HARRIMAN BERRY R		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 995 proposed that the Maine State Retirement System prepare and deliver before December 31, 1999 a member's statement of account to every vested and nonvested member of the system stating the member's contributions and benefits accrued at the date of the statement. The resolve would have directed the Maine State Retirement System to prepare each member's statement of account on a date as close to December 31, 1999 as practical that still allows for the statements to be delivered before a possible computer disruption on January 1, 2000. The issue raised by the bill will be considered with LD 1091 which has been carried over to next session.

LD 1016 **An Act to Require That a Translator Be Available to Employees In the Workers' Compensation Process** **PUBLIC 202**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HATCH MILLS		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-262
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LD 1016 proposed to require the Workers' Compensation Board to provide or pay the cost of an interpreter during workers' compensation proceedings for an employee who is not fluent in English. It also proposed to require the board to share the services of interpreters in the Department of Labor to the extent possible.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-262) proposed to direct the Workers' Compensation Board to seek advice in locating interpreters from the Department of Labor, rather than requiring the board to use interpreters employed by the department.

Enacted law summary