

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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BRAGDON	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-362
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LD 1383 proposed to allow employers to maintain personnel records in any form including paper, microfiche or electronic form and to require the employer to take adequate steps to ensure the integrity and confidentiality of the records.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-362) proposed to require an employer who keeps records in a form other than paper to have available the equipment necessary to review and copy personnel files. It also proposed to allow the Department of Labor, as well as an employee or former employee, to bring an action for equitable relief for violations of the law.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 235 allows employers to maintain personnel records in any form including paper, microfiche or electronic form and requires an employer who keeps records in a form other than paper to have equipment available for reviewing and copying the personnel files. It also allows the Department of Labor, as well as an employee or former employee, to bring an action for equitable relief for violations of the law.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HARRIMAN	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1444 proposed that Legislators be required to pay 10% of their health and dental insurance and 60% of their dependents' health insurance premiums. Currently the State pays 100% of Legislators' health and dental plan premiums and 50% of their dependents' health insurance premiums.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HARRIMAN	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1445 proposed to eliminate state-paid health insurance benefits for retired Legislators who were first elected in 1992 or later.