

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:

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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.

An Act to Ensure that Displaced Workers Have Access to Appropriate Job Training, Education and Employment Services through a Peer Support Program

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TREAT COLWELL	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-242 S-413 MICHAUD

LD 1718 proposed to create the Peer Support Program for Displaced Workers within the Department of Labor to provide advocacy and information to employees affected by significant layoffs. Under the program, the department would initiate a peer support project and hire peer support workers when layoffs of 100 or more employees occur or when 50 or more employees are laid off and a project is warranted by the nature of the workforce or the community.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-242) proposed to add an appropriation and a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-413) proposed to amend the bill to account for the fact that a pilot program for peer support was funded in the "Part 2" budget, Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part RR. The amendment proposed to clarify that the Department of Labor is authorized to use existing funds or apply for federal funding to continue the Peer Support Program for Displaced Workers beginning July 1, 2000. It also proposed to require the Department of Labor to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor on the status of the pilot program funded in the "Part 2" Budget, along with the availability of any funding to continue the program. The amendment also proposed to eliminate the General Fund appropriation.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 506 authorizes the Department of Labor to create a Peer Support Program for Displaced Workers, to provide advocacy and information to employees affected by significant layoffs. Under the program, the department will initiate a peer support project and hire peer support workers when layoffs of 100 or more employees occur or when 50 or more employees are laid off and a project is warranted by the nature of the workforce or the community. The program may be operated within existing resources, and the department may use any available resources and may apply for federal grants for the program. The Department of Labor is also required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor by January 14, 2000 on the status of a pilot peer support program funded in the "Part 2" budget, PL 1999, chapter 401, Part RR.

An Act to Increase Health Insurance Benefits for Retired Educators

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

LD 1730 proposes to increase the State's contribution for health insurance for retired educators from 30% to 35% beginning January 1, 2000 and from 35% to 40% beginning January 1, 2001.

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