

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR**

JULY 2000

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
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of 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:

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
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT..... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

LD 1927

An Act to Ensure that an Eligible Work Force is Promptly Certified for Trade Act Assistance and Has Full Access to Training and Education Services as Provided by Law

INDEF PP

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

LD 1927 proposed to allow a person to receive dislocated worker benefits to provide extended benefits to enable the person to complete a training or educational program following a layoff. Benefits would be paid only after the person exhausted unemployment compensation and federal Trade Act benefits, and only if the person used up some of the 26 weeks of unemployment compensation to which the person is entitled during intermittent periods of layoff before being completely laid off and available for training or education programs. The bill also proposed to require the Department of Labor to make eligibility determinations for workers who apply to participate in training programs under the federal Trade Act within 20 days of the date of the worker's application, or earlier if needed to allow the person to enroll in an educational institution or training program.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-569) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to create a fund within the Department of Labor to provide weekly benefits to workers who used up some of their unemployment compensation benefits before being finally laid off, rather than paying those benefits out of the Unemployment Compensation Fund as proposed in the bill.

LD 1988

An Act to Provide for Benefits to Surviving Dependents of Employees Who Die as a Result of Work Injuries

ONTP

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

LD 1988 proposed to remove the 500-week cap on death benefits payable to the surviving dependents of an employee who dies as a result of workplace injuries. It also proposed an annual adjustment of the weekly benefit so that the benefit would be the same percentage of the state's average weekly wage as it was at the time of the employee's injury.

LD 1989

An Act to Amend Binding Arbitration to Include Salaries, Pensions and Insurance for State, Legislative and Municipal Employees and to Provide a Process for Voting when a Public Employer's Last Offer is Not Selected

DIED IN CONCURRENCE

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