

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

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Rep. Jay MacDougall

Rep. Adam Mack

Rep. Gerald M. Davis

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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.

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** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RICHARDSON J	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1989 proposes to amend the public employee labor relations laws to allow for binding arbitration on salaries, pensions and insurance and to create a process for submitting the results of arbitration to the voters or the Legislature for approval.

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

LD 1995**An Act to Clarify the Workers' Compensation Laws Regarding the Agricultural Laborer Exemption** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PIEH KILKELLY	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1995 proposes to clarify that the agricultural employer exemption from workers' compensation law does not apply to an employer who has employed more than 6 agricultural workers concurrently for 240 person hours per week or more, at any time within the 52 weeks immediately preceding the injury.

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

LD 2041**An Act to Eliminate Legislative Pensions** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MILLS	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2041 proposed to eliminate the legislative retirement system. See also LD 1448.

LD 2073**An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Laws Pertaining to Attorney's Fees** **DIED IN CONCURRENCE**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HATCH TREAT	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP MAJ ONTP MIN	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2073 proposed to require an employer who is represented by legal counsel in a workers' compensation proceeding to pay the attorney's fees of an employee in a workers' compensation proceeding if the employee prevailed. The employer would not be responsible for the employee's attorney fees if the employer chose not to be represented by legal counsel or if the employee did not prevail.