

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Labor*

July 2003

Members:

*Sen. Betheda G. Edmonds, Chair
Sen. Steven S. Stanley
Sen. Kenneth Blais*

*Rep. William J. Smith, Chair
Rep. Deborah J. Hutton
Rep. Paul R. Hatch
Rep. John L. Patrick
Rep. Thomas R. Watson
Rep. Russell P. Treadwell
Rep. Philip Cressey, Jr.
Rep. Robert W. Nutting
Rep. Theodore H. Heidrich
Rep. Troy D. Jackson*

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Maine State Legislature



Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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 committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

<i>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i>	<i>Bills carried over to the 2nd Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP-ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PASSED</i>	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

David C. Elliott, Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

LD 10

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Extension of Benefits for Partial Incapacity Under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992

PUBLIC 52

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-62
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LD 10 proposed to allow the Workers' Compensation Board to delegate to hearing officers the authority to hear and decide cases involving a request for an extension of benefits due to extreme financial hardship caused by the inability to return to gainful employment.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-62) proposed to clarify that the Workers' Compensation Board may delegate a decision on extension of benefits to a hearing officer or a panel of 3 hearing officers and that the decision to delegate such authority must be made on a case-by-case basis. It also proposed to provide that hearing officer decisions on this issue may not be appealed to the Workers' Compensation Board, but may be appealed directly to the Law Court like other hearing officer decisions.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 52 allows the Workers' Compensation Board, on a case-by-case basis, to delegate to hearing officers the authority to hear and decide cases involving a request for an extension of benefits due to extreme financial hardship due to inability to return to gainful employment. The case may be heard by a single hearing officer or a panel of three hearing officers, and hearing officer decisions on these matters may not be appealed to the Board.

LD 11

An Act to Establish the Administrative Operating Budget for the Maine State Retirement System for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2004

**P & S 6
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-63
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LD 11 proposed to allocate funds for the operating budget of the Maine State Retirement System for fiscal year 2003-04 as required by statute.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-63) proposed to incorporate a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Private and Special Law 2003, chapter 6 provides an allocation of \$9,959,245 for the operating budget of the Maine State Retirement System for fiscal year 2003-04.

Private and Special Law 2003, chapter 6 is an emergency measure and takes effect July 1, 2003.