

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 528

An Act To Increase the Number of Members of the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'BRIEN J		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 528 proposed to add one member to the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System, to be selected from a list of 3 nominees submitted by the Maine Association of Retirees.

LD 550

An Act Regarding Employment of Workers' Compensation Board Hearing Officers and Mediators **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> EDMONDS SMITH W		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 550 proposes to transfer the authority to hire or contract with workers' compensation hearing officers and mediators from the Workers' Compensation Board to the Board's executive director.

LD 550 was reported out of committee with 2 "ought-to-pass as amended" reports, but was re-referred to committee and carried over. The 2 proposed reports were as follows:

1. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-53)**, the majority report of the committee, proposed that hearing officers and mediators continue in their current status as non-civil service employees, serving at the pleasure of the appointing authority. It also proposed to require the executive director to enter into a written agreement with each hearing officer employed by the Board, setting forth the terms and conditions of employment and providing for renewable terms of employment of up to 5 years.
2. **Committee Amendment "B" (S-54)**, the minority report of the committee, proposed to replace the bill. It proposed that the Workers' Compensation Board continue as the appointing authority for hearing officers and mediators, and that the Board must enter into written agreements with hearing officers specifying the terms and conditions of their employment, including specifying the term of employment, which may be up to 3 years. The amendment also proposed to require the executive director of the board to evaluate hearing officers before they are reappointed and to make a recommendation to the board regarding reappointment.

LD 561

An Act To Improve Standards for Public Assistance to Employers in the State **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HUTTON EDMONDS		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 561 proposes to require employers who receive the benefit of several state economic development incentive programs to meet certain wage and benefit standards.