

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

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 382 moves authority to review nominations of Workers' Compensation Board members from the joint standing committee having jurisdiction over state and local government matters to the committee having authority over labor matters.

LD 672 **An Act Relating to Employees Whose Membership in the Maine State Retirement System is Optional** **PUBLIC 261**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| EDMONDS | OTP-AM | S-138 |

LD 672 proposed to allow confidential employees of the Maine Technical College System who are not represented in a collective bargaining unit to amend their retirement system election.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-138) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to provide that any employee whose membership in the Maine State Retirement System is optional, including confidential employees of the Maine Community College System, may purchase, at the actuarial cost, service credit for the time during which that person was eligible to be in the Maine State Retirement System but elected not to join. It proposed that a confidential employee of the Maine Community College System whose membership is optional and who is not represented by a union may join or rejoin the Maine State Retirement System only when the funds necessary to pay the additional costs to the Maine Community College System have been identified and designated.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 261 clarifies the ability of an employee whose membership in the Maine State Retirement System is optional, including confidential employees of the Maine Community College System, to reenter the system after having earlier withdrawn. It provides that any employee whose membership is optional may purchase service credit for the time during which that person was eligible to be in the Maine State Retirement System but elected not to join the Maine State Retirement System. The employee would be required to pay the full actuarial cost of the service credit. Finally, it provides that a confidential employee of the Maine Community College System whose membership is optional and who is not represented by a union may join or rejoin the Maine State Retirement System only when the funds necessary to pay the additional costs to the Maine Community College System have been identified and designated.

LD 673 **An Act To Increase Maine's Minimum Wage** **CARRIED OVER**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| HATCH PH PATRICK | | |

LD 673 proposes to increase the minimum wage from the current \$6.25 per hour to \$6.65 per hour beginning October 1, 2003 and to \$7 per hour beginning October 1, 2004.