

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 1453

An Act To Allow for Immediate Unemployment Fact-finding Interviews for Able and Availability Issues

PUBLIC 163

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> EDMONDS		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-81
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LD 1453 proposed to allow the Department of Labor, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation, to hold an immediate fact-finding interview when an individual submits information in a weekly unemployment claim indicating the claimant was not available for work during some part of the claim week and to modify the benefit check amount based on the information provided by the claimant during the fact-finding interview.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-81) proposed to incorporate a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 163 allows the Department of Labor, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation, to hold an immediate fact-finding interview when an individual submits information in a weekly unemployment claim indicating that the claimant was not available for work during the claim week. The Department may modify the benefit check amount accordingly based on the information provided by the claimant during the fact-finding interview.

LD 1476

An Act To Improve Timeliness of Unemployment Trust Fund Deposits

PUBLIC 164

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SMITH W		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-147
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LD 1476 would help to ensure the more timely deposit of unemployment insurance contributions into the Unemployment Trust Fund, as required by the Federal Deposit Standard. Currently the interagency cooperation that requires the combined payment for unemployment insurance contributions and income tax withholding is deposited into a combined unemployment insurance contributions and income tax withholding account, and the unemployment insurance contributions portion is subsequently deposited into the clearing account as is now required under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 1161. The reconciliation and clearance process in 2 accounts is not efficient cash management and is an unnecessary duplication. It delays the timely deposit of contributions into the Unemployment Trust Fund, resulting in a loss of interest, and creates conditions that impede meeting the Federal Deposit Standard.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-147) proposed a technical amendment to clarify that only the unemployment compensation money in the combined account is deposited in the Unemployment Trust Fund.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 164 modifies the process for depositing unemployment insurance contributions from employers into the Unemployment Trust Fund to eliminate delays in the deposit. Currently there is a 2-step process, which is inefficient and creates conditions that may not meet federal standards.