

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Labor*

July 2006

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Sen. Philip L. Bartlett, II
Sen. Lois A. Snowe-Mello*

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Maine State Legislature



Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Office of Fiscal and Program Review

122nd Maine Legislature Second 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 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/billsumm.htm).

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:

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
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....	Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT.....	Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
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
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PASSED.....	Joint Order passed in both bodies
PUBLIC XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX.....	Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED (Pocket Veto).....	Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 23, 2006.

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

LD 235

An Act To Increase the Minimum Wage

PUBLIC 578

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE	OTP-AM MAJ	H-725
BRYANT B	ONTP MIN	

LD 235 proposed to increase the State minimum hourly wage to \$6.75 per hour starting October 1, 2006 and to \$7.00 per hour starting October 1, 2007.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-725) proposed to update the bill to correct the reference to the current State minimum hourly wage, retaining the proposed increase of the State minimum hourly wage to \$7.00 per hour over a 2-year period.

House Amendment “A” (H-807) proposed to allow a tax credit to an employer who hires a person who has been unemployed for a year or more or who is an unskilled laborer. The tax credit would equal the difference between the federal minimum hourly wage and the State minimum hourly wage, multiplied by the number of hours worked by the person hired. The amendment proposed to make the credit applicable only for the first 12 months of the employment of the person hired and to become effective for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2007. This amendment was not adopted.

House Amendment “D” to Committee Amendment “A” (H-916) proposed to delay the increase to \$6.75 per hour in the State minimum hourly wage until October 1, 2007 and proposed to eliminate the further increase provided in Committee Amendment “A.” This amendment was not adopted.

House Amendment “E” to Committee Amendment “A” (H-917) proposed to delay the increase to \$6.75 per hour in the State minimum hourly wage until October 1, 2007 and proposed to eliminate the further increase provided in Committee Amendment “A.” This amendment was not adopted.

House Amendment “H” to Committee Amendment “A” (H-968) proposed to require the Commissioner of Labor, starting October 1, 2008 and every October 1st thereafter, to adjust the State minimum hourly wage by any positive percentage change in the 12-month average of the National Consumer Price Index for All Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers for the previous year. This amendment was not adopted.

House Amendment “I” to Committee Amendment “A” (H-969) proposed to increase the State minimum hourly wage to \$7.25 and \$8.00 per hour effective October 1, 2006 and October 1, 2007, respectively, and proposed to require the Commissioner of Labor, starting October 1, 2008 and every October 1st thereafter, to adjust the State minimum hourly wage by any positive percentage change in the 12-month average of the National Consumer Price Index for All Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers for the previous year. This amendment was not adopted.

Senate Amendment “A” to Committee Amendment “A” (S-454) proposed to limit the proposed increases in the State minimum hourly wage to persons 18 years of age or older. This amendment was not adopted.

Senate Amendment “B” (S-482) proposed that, starting October 1, 2006, an employer with 25 or fewer employees may, under certain conditions, pay a student under 18 years of age hired on or after October 1, 2006 a minimum hourly wage of \$6.50 per hour for a period no longer than 90 days. This amendment was not adopted.

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

Senate Amendment “B” to Committee Amendment “A” (S-459) proposed to increase the State minimum hourly wage to \$6.75 per hour starting October 1, 2007 and to \$7.00 per hour starting October 1, 2008. This amendment was not adopted.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 578 increases the State minimum hourly wage to \$6.75 per hour starting October 1, 2006 and to \$7.00 per hour starting October 1, 2007.

LD 350 **An Act To Provide Funding To Allow Veterans Who Received Certain Combat Medals To Purchase Subsidized Service Time towards Their Retirement** **DIED ON ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CAMPBELL NASS R	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-32
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LD 350 proposed to allow members of the Maine State Retirement System with at least 15 years of creditable service who served in the Armed Forces of the United States to purchase service credit for the time spent in the armed forces at a subsidized cost, whether or not the military time was during a federally recognized period of conflict or the member was awarded a campaign or expeditionary medal.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-32) proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to appropriate funds to the Maine State Retirement System for the purposes of Public Law 2003, chapter 693, which enables veterans who received certain combat or expeditionary medals to purchase military service credit toward retirement at a subsidized rate.

LD 430 **An Act To Modify the Obligation To Bargain under the Municipal Public Employees Labor Relations Law** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> NORTON EDMONDS	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 430, a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposed to modify the obligations of public employers and their employees to bargain collectively, as is currently required under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 965.