

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and  
First Special Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Labor*

*August 2005*

**Members:**

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

*Rep. William J. Smith, Chair  
Rep. John L. Tuttle, Jr.  
Rep. Deborah J. Hutton  
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Maine State Legislature

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122nd Legislature
First Regular Session and First Special Session

Summary of Legislation Considered by the Joint Standing Committees
August 2005

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 organized by committees 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. A subject index for each committee is included immediately before the bill summaries for that committee, and a numerical index by LD number is included 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:

- CARRIED OVER ..... Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session
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
OTP ND/NT..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED..... Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 29, 2005; and for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session is September 17, 2005.

*Joint Standing Committee on Labor*

LD 583

**An Act To Amend the Law Regarding the Use of "Hearing Dogs" by Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Persons**

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| EDMONDS<br>PERCY  | ONTP                    |                           |

LD 583 proposed to eliminate the requirement in current state law that the Department of Labor, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services issue a card identifying certain dogs as having been "especially trained" as guide dogs for deaf or hard-of-hearing persons. The bill also proposed to remove the requirements that the owner of the dog carry the card and that the "hearing dog" wear a hunter orange collar and leash.

**LD 659**

**An Act To Allow for Equitable Recovery of Wages for Employees Who Are Not Paid in Full**

PUBLIC 103

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u>  | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| HUTTON<br>BRYANT B | OTP-AM                  | H-158                     |

LD 659 proposed to allow an employee to recover wages from an employer when the employee has been undercompensated due to an error of the employer.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-158)** proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to clarify that an employee may recover wages from an employer when the employer has not paid the employee in full.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 2005, chapter 103 clarifies that an employee may recover wages from an employer when the employer has not paid the employee in full.

LD 721

**An Act To Make the Minimum Wage a Livable Wage**

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| EDER              | ONTP MAJ<br>OTP-AM MIN  |                           |

LD 721 proposed to require that state employees, employees of entities with whom the State contracts and employees of businesses that receive grant payments, tax credits, tax reimbursement or tax forgiveness from the State receive a "livable" wage.