

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*

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Rep. James M. Hamper*

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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 748

Resolve, Establishing the Commission To Study Retirement Eligibility and Benefits for Corrections Officers, Certain Other Law Enforcement Officers and Mental Health Workers

CARRIED OVER

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| GAGNON DUPLESSIE | | S-311 STRIMLING S-68 |

LD 748, a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208, proposed to create parity between retirement benefits for corrections officers and mental health workers by adding direct-care mental health workers in the Department of Health and Human Services to the 1998 Special Plan. Under that plan, a worker qualifies for service retirement benefits if that worker either is 55 years of age with 10 years of creditable service in a covered capacity; or has 25 years of creditable service. In the latter case, the worker is eligible for a reduced benefit.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-68) proposed to create the Commission to Study Eliminating the Normal Retirement Age for Corrections Officers and Mental Health Workers for the purpose of studying whether corrections officers and mental health workers should uniformly be eligible to retire after 25 years of service without a reduction in benefits regardless of their age. Membership of the commission would include representatives of corrections officers and mental health workers and 5 Legislators. The commission would be authorized to submit legislation to the Second Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature by December 15, 2005.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-311) proposed to expand the study to include a review of whether law enforcement officers in the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of the Secretary of State should be included in the 1998 Special Plan, and to change the name, membership and duties of the commission accordingly.

This bill was carried over by H.P. 1203 to the next special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature.

LD 758

An Act To Increase Retired Teachers' Health Insurance Benefits

CARRIED OVER

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| GLYNN | OTP-AM | H-410 |

LD 758 proposed to increase the State's contribution for health insurance for retired educators from 40% to 100%, phased in over 3 years.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-410) proposed to phase in the increase to the State's contribution for health insurance for retired educators over 11 years and to add an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table by S.P. 640 to the next special or regular session of the 122nd Legislature.

See also Public Law 2005, chapter 12, part X and Public Law 2005, chapter 457, part TT, which increase the state's contribution for health insurance for retired educators from 40% to 45% as of January 1, 2006.