

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature coming from the

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR

July 2007

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STATE OF MAINE

123RD LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS



This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature, which was in session from December 6, 2006 to June 21, 2007.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

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 (or Accepted ONTP report)..... | 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..... | Bill held by Governor |
| VETO SUSTAINED..... | Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto |

Please note that the effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session is **September 20, 2007**. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

LD 844 An Act To Change the Name of the Division of Labor Market Information Services to the Center for Workforce Research and Information

PUBLIC 126

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| RECTOR DIAMOND | OTP | |

This bill changes the name of the Department of Labor's Division of Labor Market Information Services to the Center for Workforce Research and Information.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, Chapter 126 changes the name of the Department of Labor's Division of Labor Market Information Services to the Center for Workforce Research and Information.

LD 845 An Act To Tie the Percentage of Health Insurance Benefits for Retired Teachers to That of Retired Legislators

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| EDGECOMB BOWMAN | ONTP | |

This bill provides that the percentage of a retired teacher's share of the premiums for the teachers' group accident and sickness and health insurance plan paid by the State may not be less than the percentage of the share of premiums of a retired Legislator with 10 or more years of participation in the standard group health insurance plan paid by the State.

LD 869 Resolve, Directing the Maine State Retirement System To Recalculate the Retirement Benefits of D'Lila Terracin

CARRIED OVER

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| TUTTLE | | |

This bill directs the Maine State Retirement System to retroactively recalculate the retirement benefits of D'Lila Terracin to allow her to receive 2 years of disability payments between 58 and 60 years of age and to calculate her Maine State Retirement System retirement benefits at 60 years of age to enable her to avoid early retirement penalties. This bill is carried over to any special or regular session of the 123rd Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1369.

LD 870 An Act To Enhance Education Services for Blind and Visually Impaired Children

**DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| FAIRCLOTH | OTP-AM | H-137 |

This bill provides funding to Education Services for Blind and Visually Impaired Children for two additional teacher positions and increased salaries, which should result in a decrease in the number of blind and visually impaired

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

students per program teacher to more appropriate levels. The bill also provides funding for purchasing and updating assistive technology for teachers of blind and visually impaired children and for training the teachers in the use of this technology.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-137)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

LD 871 An Act To Amend the Laws Relating to the Treatment of Maine State Retirement System Contributions for Terminated

PUBLIC 137

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

This bill repeals the current statutory provisions governing the refund of accumulated contributions to members and the treatment of accumulated contributions for terminated members and replaces those provisions. The replacement language is substantively the same for terminated members who apply for a refund of accumulated contributions. For nonvested terminated members, the bill permits the Maine State Retirement System to make an automatic refund of accumulated contributions to the member and permits the member to reinstate membership upon the return of automatically refunded accumulated contributions. The bill also contains transitional language to assist the retirement system in its effort to improve the quality of member data.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-138)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, Chapter 137 repeals the current statutory provisions governing the refund of accumulated contributions to members and the treatment of accumulated contributions for terminated members and replaces those provisions. The replacement language is substantively the same for terminated members who apply for a refund of accumulated contributions. For nonvested terminated members, the bill permits the Maine State Retirement System to make an automatic refund of accumulated contributions to the member and permits the member to reinstate membership upon the return of automatically refunded accumulated contributions. The bill also contains transitional language to assist the retirement system in its effort to improve the quality of member data.

LD 903 An Act To Assist Maine Military Families

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| SCHNEIDER | ONTP | |

This bill expands the applicability of family military leave by reducing from 50 to 15 the number of employees that an employer must have to trigger the requirement that such leave be provided. The bill also allows family members the option of using unpaid leave while the service member is on leave granted during deployment. The substance of this bill is part of an amendment to LD 256, and enacted as Public Law 2007, Chapter 388.