

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 2077

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**LABOR**

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**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
120TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1572, L.D. 2077, Bill, "An Act to Require Logging Contractors to Notify Landowners and Employees of the Cancellation of Workers' Compensation Insurance Coverage"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting in its place the following:

**Sec. 2. Development of plans to improve enforcement and reduce accidents.** The Department of Labor shall convene an interagency working group with representatives of the department and the Workers' Compensation Board, which shall:

1. Review current policies and activities to enforce workers' compensation coverage requirements in the forest products harvesting industry, including review of practices in policy cancellations;

2. Identify ways to enhance efforts to enforce the workers' compensation coverage requirement in the forest products harvesting industry, identify the agency responsible for enforcement activity and determine the staff and other resources needed to enhance enforcement;

3. Review available data on the types and causes of accidents in the forest products harvesting industry and identify ways to prevent such accidents and if data is unavailable or incomplete, identify ways to improve data collection;

4. Work with the forest products harvesting industry to create incentive-based systems to enhance efforts to reduce the frequency and severity of accidents in the industry;

5. Consider how enforcement efforts and accident prevention in the forest products harvesting industry may be extended to enforcement and safety in other industries and work places; and

6. Report its findings, recommendations and implementing legislation regarding enforcement, accident prevention and other issues to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over agriculture, conservation and forestry matters by January 15, 2003. Each of the 2 joint standing committees may report out legislation based upon the report to the First Regular Session of the 121st Legislature.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

**FISCAL NOTE**

The additional workload and administrative costs associated with the minimal number of new cases filed in the court system can be absorbed within the budgeted resources of the Judicial Department. The collection of additional fines may increase General Fund revenue by minor amounts.

The additional costs associated with convening an interagency working group to review enforcement efforts in the forest products harvesting industry and submitting the required report can be absorbed by the Department of Labor utilizing existing budgeted resources.

The Workers' Compensation Board will incur some minor additional costs to participate in the interagency working group. These costs can be absorbed within the board's existing budgeted resources.'

**SUMMARY**

This amendment changes the section of the bill requiring the Workers' Compensation Board to study the forest products harvesting industry.

Instead of requiring the board to perform these tasks, the amendment requires the Department of Labor to convene an interagency working group, including the board, to review enforcement efforts and develop accident-reduction systems in the forest products harvesting industry, to consider ways to enhance data collection to assist in reducing accidents in the forest

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1572, L.D. 2077

2 products harvesting industry and to consider how enforcement and  
accident prevention can be of benefit in other industries and  
4 work places.

The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**