

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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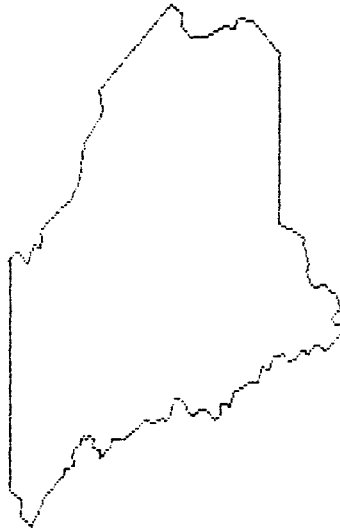


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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
**Labor**

BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1983

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Labor Committee

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1322

AN ACT TO REFORM THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM

Martin, J. M-OTP-A(acc.)  
Pray m-ONTIP  
Joseph PL 1983, c. 479  
Diamond, J. (emerg.)

SUMMARY: Implements recommendations of the Speaker's Select Committee on Workers' Compensation, including: institution of an "early-pay" system of compensation to replace the current "agreement" system; administrative improvements such as the hiring of 2 full-time permanent commissioners and additional staff, and extension of the judicial retirement system to the commissioners; cost-saving provisions such as making annual cost-of-living adjustments on the anniversary date of the injury rather than on July 1; and a funded study of alternative workers' compensation systems; also dedicates premium tax assessments to a Workers' Compensation Fund to fund the changes.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" (H-217): 13 amendments to the bill, including an amendment to deal with employees who do not lose time from work within 5 work days; clarification that acceptance of compensation is not an admission or waiver of liability; provisions dealing with removal of commissioners, rule-making authority, duties and appointment of employee assistants, and several provisions dealing with funding (adopted Maj. rep.).

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-226): adds headnote to a section (Ketover) (Adopted).

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-237): changes Fund from dedicated to general account and undedicates revenues (Najarian) (Adopted).

1338 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE McHenry ONIP(acc.)  
Violette Acc. rep.

SUMMARY: Minimum wage would be increased by 10 cents in the first year, and in each subsequent year it would be increased by the same percentage as the increase in the state average weekly wage.

1350 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEGOTIA- Martin, J. PL 1983, c. 147  
TION OF SENIORITY PROVISIONS FOR Hayes (ND of LD 363)  
TEACHERS Matthew, K. (emerg.)  
Crowley

SUMMARY of LD 363: Allows seniority, layoff and recall to be negotiable items between public school teachers and their employers.

SUMMARY of LD 1350: Layoff and recall shall be negotiable items if either party wishes it; criteria for the order of layoff and recall may include, but may not be limited to, seniority.