

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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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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1361 AN ACT CONCERNING ATTORNEYS' FEES Zirkilton LV/WD(acc.)
IN WORKERS' COMPENSATION CASES Perkins, T.

SUMMARY: Workers' Compensation claimant's attorneys fees may be awarded based on the commission's assessment of the claim's merits and the reasonableness of awarding partial or total fees.

1369 AN ACT TO REMOVE MINIMUM WEEKLY Shute M-ONTP(acc.)
CHARGE FOR HANDICAPPED WORKERS Kelly m-OTP
UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

SUMMARY: Eliminates \$25 minimum weekly workers' compensation benefit level for handicapped employees in sheltered workshops, and requires insurers to set rates based on actual average earnings of these employees rather than on industry wide averages.

1394 AN ACT TO CLARIFY SANCTIONS FOR RE- Swazey OTP-A
PEATED VIOLATION OF THE LABOR LAWS Norton PL 1983, c. 296
OF MAINE Dutremble
Cark, H.

SUMMARY: An employer who repeatedly violates labor safety laws shall, after conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or up to 6 months imprisonment; bill eliminates requirement that the violation have actually caused death to an employee.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-183): Penalties do not come into force unless the violation is a serious violation, which is defined as a violation where there is a substantial probability that death or serious harm could result from the violation (adopted).

1409 AN ACT RELATING TO REHABILITATION Joseph LV/WD(acc.)
UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW McGowan

SUMMARY: Substantially expands the scope of rehabilitation services for disabled employees under the workers' compensation laws.

NOTE: Speaker's Select Committee on Workers' Compensation plans to work on this topic.