

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

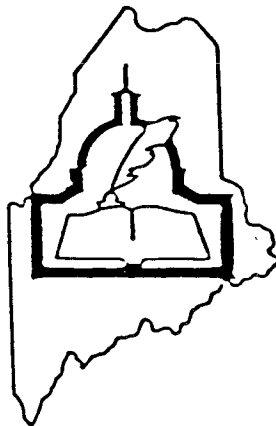
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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LABOR
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

LD: 1255 AN ACT ALLOWING AN EXEMPTION FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYERS EMPLOYING LESS THAN 3 PERSONS WEBSTER C DEXTER

LU-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

The bill would have permitted small employers who employ 2 or fewer employees in nonhazardous positions the option of not being covered by the Workers' Compensation Act.

LD: 1286 AN ACT TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE STATE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM DOW

LU-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

The bill required the Workers' Compensation Commission to report annually to the Legislature on the caseload and work record of each commissioner.

LD: 1319 AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW TUTTLE BEAULIEU HALE BLACK PUBLIC CH # 348

OTP-AM HOUSE Enacted
SENATE Enacted
GOV SIGNED

H-286 CA BOST H S
S-104 CA H S
S-113 SA DANTON
S-127 SB DANTON H S
S-151 SC DUTREMBLE

SUMMARY:

LD 1319 was the Labor Department's omnibus unemployment compensation bill. The original bill corrected several technical and grammatical errors as well as changing the definition of "wages" to make it consistent with recent changes in the federal definition of taxable wages, authorized the commissioner to issue subpoenas and administer oaths, allowed the department to retain a greater balance in the Federal Advance Interest Fund and to avoid payment into the Unemployment Compensation Fund if advances from the federal fund are expected in the following year, required an individual to earn unemployment requalification wages in employment by an employer, provided that a new employer pay unemployment taxes at the average rate of all employers up to a maximum of 4%, created new employer

contribution rate schedules--reducing the number of schedules and raising the fund reserve level, and strengthened unemployment tax collection and enforcement measures. Committee amendment S-104 deleted those sections of the original bill that dealt with the employer contribution rate schedules and those that changed the structure and procedures of the Federal Advance Interest Fund. In addition, the amendment added a provision to ensure that the State would be unable to tax any wages that were not taxable under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act. Senate amendments S-113 and S-127 made technical corrections to the bill. Senate amendment S-151 attempted to clarify the reference to the federal unemployment tax statutes made in the committee amendment by restricting its effect to only 2 subsections of the federal act; that was eventually done by house amendment H-286.

LD: 1328 AN ACT TO PROMOTE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

MARTIN J
PRAY
HAYDEN
PERKINS

ONTP HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

LD 1328 provided for a comprehensive program of safety education and safety loans; it was incorporated into the workers' compensation reform package, LD 1634.

LD: 1367 AN ACT CONCERNING GOLF COURSE EMPLOYEES AS NONSEASONAL EMPLOYEES UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW

DOW
WEYMOUTH

LU-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

LD 1367 would have excluded golf clubs which operate 26 weeks or more in a year from being considered seasonal industries under the Employment Security Law.