

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
LABOR  
BILL SUMMARY



MAY 1986

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
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BILL SUMMARIES  
MAY 1986

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

All Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor if it is a floor amendment or the designation "CA" if it is a committee amendment. If the amendment was adopted in the House, the letter H appears after the sponsor. If it was adopted in the Senate, the letter S appears.

Final action for each bill is listed to the right of the title. If final House action and Senate action differ, both are listed.

Key to Committee Reports and Floor Action:

OTP	Ought to Pass
OTP-ND	Ought to Pass in New Draft
OTP-ND-NT	Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
OTP-AM	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

payment of workers' compensation benefits by making the employer/insurer liable for certain damages suffered by an employee as a result of a delay in workers' compensation proceedings. If an employee was not paid within one week of the informal conference, and he later recovered benefits, the employer would have to reimburse the employee for any housing or personal possessions repossessed or insurance coverage lost on account of the delay in receiving benefits. The bill received a unanimous ought not to pass report in return for the passage of a resolve directing the Workers' Compensation Commission to study the causes of delay within the system. See L.D. 2309.

LD AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAID AND OTHER SERVICES ND LD 2274  
2098 AND PAYMENTS PENDING HEARING AND DECISIONS  
UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

Sponsor: MARTIN J  
Committee Report: OTP-ND-NT

SUMMARY: See new draft, L.D. 2274.

LD AN ACT TO REQUIRE PROMPT PAYMENT OF MEDICAL ONTP  
2099 BILLS UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

Sponsor: HIGGINS H, Michaud  
Committee Report: ONTP

SUMMARY: L.D. 2099 changed the time period within which an employer is required to pay compensation for medical expenses under the Workers' Compensation Act from 90 days to 30 days.

LD AN ACT TO IMPROVE RETRAINING OPPORTUNITIES PL 1985  
2122 FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS c. 591

Sponsor: MARTIN J, Tammaro, Pray, Dutremble  
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 2017

H-561 HA

SUMMARY: L.D. 2017 extended the maximum length of time in which a person could draw unemployment benefits for up to 26 additional weeks as long as that person was in an approved training program; these benefits would not be paid if the person were eligible for similar federally-funded benefits.

The new draft, L.D. 2122 clarified certain drafting errors; limited the program to only dislocated workers; allowed a dislocated worker to collect these extended benefits for only one retraining opportunity; defined "dislocated worker" to include only those unemployed persons who are unlikely to return to their previous type of employment; required an annual report from the Commissioner of Labor regarding the program's effectiveness and effect on the Unemployment Trust Fund; and added a sunset clause to automatically repeal the program in 3 years or sooner if the reserve multiple drops below .245, indicating that the Trust Fund balance has dropped below approximately \$35,000,000.

House amendment "A" (H-561) would have substituted ".36" in place of the .245 reserve multiple figure used to trigger automatic repeal. The .36 figure would indicate that the Trust Fund balance was approximately \$50,000,000.

LD	AN ACT TO EXEMPT CERTAIN FIREFIGHTERS FROM THE	PL 1985
2161	3-YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS IN THE	c. 606
	OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE LAW	

Sponsor: BEAULIEU  
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 948

SUMMARY: The original bill, L.D. 948, created a presumption within the Workers' Compensation Act that any cancer contracted by a municipal firefighter who was exposed to carcinogenic substances while fighting fires was occupationally-related.

The new draft, L.D. 2161, creates an exception to the present 3-year statute of limitations under the Occupational Disease Law for full-time municipal firefighters; they may still file claims for occupationally-related cancers even if the disease does not manifest itself within 3 years of the last injurious exposure. The exception is limited to only full-time firefighters whose last exposure occurred after January 1, 1985.