

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
LABOR  
BILL SUMMARY



JUNE 1987

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
JUNE 1987

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. The summaries are arranged by LD number under each committee.

All Adopted 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 "COMMITTEE" if it is a committee amendment.

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

Please let us know if you would prefer a different format or additional information and if the summaries are helpful.

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-A	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

LD AN ACT RELATING TO USABLE DATA UNDER THE STATE ONTP  
276 CONSTRUCTION WAGE LAW

Sponsor: RANDALL, Willey  
Committee Report: ONTP

SUMMARY: LD 276 proposed to change the manner in which the State calculates the "fair minimum rate of wages" for State contracts. Present law requires the Bureau of Labor Standards to calculate the prevailing wage rates throughout the State in the construction industry by surveying all construction employers with 5 or more employees. LD 276 proposed to increase the size of the survey by including all construction employers with 2 or more employees.

LD AN ACT TO ALTER THE APPOINTMENT OF FACT FINDERS LVWD  
283 BY THE MAINE LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

Sponsor: GAUVREAU, Paradis J, Andrews  
Committee Report: LVWD

SUMMARY: LD 283 proposed to change the manner in which fact finders are appointed and paid under the Municipal Public Employees Labor Relations Law. Present law provides that the Director of the Maine Labor Relations Board will appoint the fact finding panel, ordinarily composed of 3 members. The compensation for these fact finders are split equally by the parties to the process. LD 283 provided for each party to appoint its own interested fact finder with the Director selecting a 3rd, neutral fact finder. Each party would pay the compensation for its own fact finder and 1/2 the cost of the neutral member.

LD AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE INFORMAL CONFERENCE PL 1987  
297 PROCESS FOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS C. 454  
EMERGENCY

Sponsor: PRIEST, Willey, Dutremble D,  
Committee Report: OTP-A  
Amendments Adopted:  
H-22 COMMITTEE  
S-10 DUTREMBLE

SUMMARY: LD 297 proposed to authorize the addition of one more employee assistant for the Workers' Compensation Commission, making a total of 11 assistants.

The Committee Amendment (H-22) also authorized an additional position of supervisor of employee assistants and added an appropriation to the bill.

The Senate Amendment (S-10) made a technical correction to the appropriation.

LD 300 AN ACT RELATING TO INTEREST ON WORKERS' COMPENSATION AWARDS LVWD

Sponsor: DORE, Joseph,  
Committee Report: LVWD

SUMMARY: LD 300 proposed to require interest to be paid on workers' compensation awards, however, present law already provides for the payment of interest.

LD 305 AN ACT RELATING TO TRIAL WORK PERIODS UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT LVWD

Sponsor: WILLEY,  
Committee Report: LVWD

SUMMARY: LD 305 proposed to modify the law governing trial work periods under the workers' compensation law. Benefits and compensation are normally suspended while an employee is working during a trial work period. LD 305 proposed to continue that suspension, even if the employee stopped participating in the trial work period, until he filed a petition with the Commission explaining his decision to stop participation in the trial work period.

LD 318 AN ACT RELATING TO THE REVIEW OF BENEFITS UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT ONTP

Sponsor: TWITCHELL,  
Committee Report: ONTP

SUMMARY: LD 318 proposed to revise the workers' compensation law regarding petitions for review. It amended present law to eliminate the existing requirement that an injured employee's physical condition change before additional petitions for review may be filed and allowed current economic circumstances to be considered in the award of benefits. The bill also permitted an employer to stop paying benefits pending a hearing if he obtained a medical opinion that the employee was able to resume work.