

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

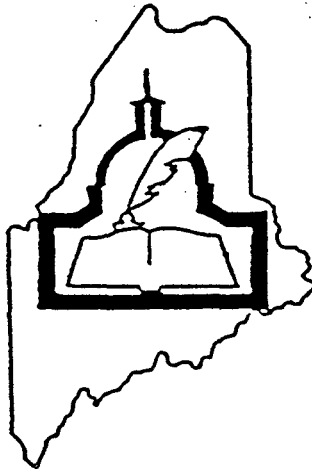
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**STATE OF MAINE
113TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST & SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS
OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 1987**

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES
PUBLISHED MAY 1988**



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**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST & SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
MAY 1988**

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 for floor amendments. Final action is listed to the right of the title. If final House and Senate action differ, both are listed. Committee Reports and Floor Action are indicated as follows::

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

Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst assigned, as noted for each committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including Secretaries: Charlene Brann, Janet Jean, Earl Knox, Valarie Parlin; Research Assistant Hartley Palleschi. Finally, Secretary Laurette Knox, Legal Assistant Carolyn Chick, and Research Assistant Robert Dunn had special responsibilities in the preparation of the overall document.

Please give us your suggestions and comments on these summaries and tell us of any inaccuracies.

2. Reducing the maximum benefit to 133 1/3% of the state average weekly wage;
3. Limiting permanent incapacity benefits to injured workers who suffered more than 75% permanent impairment;
4. Eliminating the cost-of-living adjustment for partial incapacity benefits and setting a durational limit upon their receipt which varied according to the degree of the injured worker's permanent impairment;
5. Establishing a "whole-body" permanent impairment rating system and requiring a set-off of permanent impairment benefits from incapacity benefits; and
6. Creating an independent medical examiner system.

LD An Act to Encourage Prompt and Peaceful Settlements of VETO
 1919 Labor Disputes SUSTAINED

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>	
JOSEPH	OTP	MAJ	H-435	GWADOSKY
MARTIN J		MIN	H-436	PRIEST
PRAY				
DUTREMBLE D				

SUMMARY
 See Second Regular Session.

LD An Act to Reform the Maine Workers' Compensation Act to INDEF PP
1928 Assure Coverage for Maine Workers

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>	
COLLINS				
WILLEY				

SUMMARY
 New Draft Of LD 1918

LD 1928 was the new draft of LD 1918, the Governor's workers' compensation reform bill. The substance of the LD was included as Senate Amendment "A" to LD 1929 -- the workers' compensation insurance reform bill. The LD included many changes to the workers' compensation system, including the following:

1. It gave the Maine Human Rights Commission jurisdiction to hear complaints of discrimination in hiring because of a previous workers' compensation claim;
2. Required the Workers' Compensation Commission to adopt a medical services fee schedule by rule;
3. Froze the maximum weekly benefit for one additional year until July 1, 1989;

4. Restricted the award of total incapacity benefits to injured workers who are unable to perform any full-time work in the normal state labor market, regardless of whether that work is available in or around the injured worker's community, and delayed the cost-of-living adjustment until the 3rd anniversary of a worker's injury;

5. Established a duration limit of 400 weeks from maximum medical improvement for the receipt of partial incapacity benefits and eliminated the cost-of-living adjustment;

6. Established a "whole-body" permanent impairment rating system but continued to require permanent impairment benefits to be paid in addition to incapacity benefits;

7. Strengthened the right and duty of a worker to return to employment with his previous employer after a work-related injury;

8. Established a right and duty to participate in job retraining if the employee is not rehired by his employer after a work-related injury; and

9. Provided for a method of quick termination of an employee's benefits in certain circumstances.

LD An Act to Make Technical Corrections in the Workers'
1932 Compensation Act

PUBLIC
560
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
DUTREMBLE D

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

LD 1932 provided an emergency clause which was inadvertently deleted by the amendment to LD 1929 (the workers' compensation reform bill) and corrected several erroneous cross-references in the Workers' Compensation Act which were created by new sections enacted in the reform bill.