

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
113TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR

MAY 1988

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Sen. Donald F. Collins

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* Denotes Chair

Staff: Gro Flatebo, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy & Legal Analysis
Room 101, State House Sta. 13
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 289-1670

EN T. GINDER, DIRECTOR
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STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

ROOM 101/107/135
STATE HOUSE STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL.: (207) 289-1670

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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.

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
ANDREWS	OTP-AM	H-620 MCHENRY
DUTREMBLE D		S-396
MCHENRY		
RUHLIN		

SUMMARY

This bill amends the Whistleblower's Protection Act to give the Human Rights Commission authority to enforce the Act. In addition, it extends protection against employer retribution to employees who report work practices that may not be illegal but may pose significant public health and safety risks. Finally, the bill requires the Department of Labor to develop a new poster to inform workers about this law.

The committee amendment (S-396) rewords the paragraph relating to employees refusing to carry out directives. The new paragraph includes employees reporting practices that are not necessarily violations but which could pose safety risks. It requires the employee to first seek a correction of the dangerous condition from the employer. The committee amendment also adds a fiscal note to support a position in the Human Rights Commission.

A House amendment (H-620) makes technical corrections.

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
COLLINS		H-750 GWADOSKY
DUTREMBLE D		
HEPBURN		
TAMMARO		

SUMMARY

New Draft Majority Report of LD 2039

The Strategic Training for Accelerated Reemployment (STAR) program is envisioned to provide education and training to unemployed or laid-off workers. It provides workers with training opportunities while providing the support they need to take advantage of those opportunities, namely unemployment compensation, child care and transportation assistance.

The new draft grandfathers currently unemployed people from being excluded from the program, clarifies the requirements for notifying unemployed workers and ensures that claimants have input into individual employment plans that are developed under the program. In addition, the new draft establishes an appeal process for any determinations made under the program, adds flexibility for covering the cost of dependent care and transportation and, after a year of training, allows participants to supplement training costs with any