

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
115TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
LABOR**

**AUGUST 1991**

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
AUGUST 1991**

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 volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H - 584 or S - 222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

<b>PUBLIC XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<b>P&amp;S XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; Special Law</i>
<b>RESOLVE XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
<b>CON RES XXX</b>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<b>CARRIED OVER</b>	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
<b>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT</b>	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<b>ONTP</b>	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
<b>LVWD</b>	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
<b>INDEF PP</b>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<b>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</b>	<i>House &amp; Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<b>VETO SUSTAINED</b>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
<b>UNSIGNED</b>	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
<b>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</b>	<i>Action incomplete when 1st session ended</i>

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-421) required that the approval of the Executive Director of the Legislative Council be obtained prior to hiring of a consultant for the study.

**LD 200**

**An Act Concerning the State Minimum Wage**

**ONTP**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
MCHENRY

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

LD 200 provided for the state minimum wage to be adjusted annually by the percentage increase or decrease change in the state average weekly wage for the 2nd year previous to the adjustment. This adjustment was subject to 3 limitations. First, the adjustment could not exceed 5% in any single year. Second, the adjustment would be rounded off to the nearest 5¢ increment. Finally, if the federal minimum wage was increased to a rate above the state level, the state minimum wage would be increased to the same amount and the succeeding year's adjustment would not be made since the new federal wage would establish a new "base rate" from which future adjustments would be calculated.

**LD 205**

**An Act to Facilitate Workers' Compensation Payments to Injured Workers**

**ONTP**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
GAUVREAU  
ESTY  
RUHLIN  
BUSTIN

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill established the Apportionment Disability Fund to pay workers' compensation benefits to injured employees when compensability is not disputed, only the respective responsibility of 2 or more insurers. The fund would be initially funded by a one-time assessment of 1/4% on actual paid losses of all workers' compensation insurers and self-insurers, with reimbursement to the fund from the parties later determined to be responsible.

**LD 268**

**An Act to Exempt Certain Small Employers from the Workers' Compensation Act**

**ONTP**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
SAVAGE  
MARSANO  
BAILEY H  
NASH

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill exempted employers of 3 or fewer employees from the workers' compensation law if the employer maintains a group health insurance policy for the employees.