

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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Dyan M. Dyttmer, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101, State House Station 13
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 289-1670*

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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

**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:

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

LD 1251**An Act to Raise the Family Allowance in Unemployment Compensation Benefits to a Reasonable Dependent Support Level****ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CONLEY	ONTP MAJ	
OLIVER	OTP-AM MIN	
TREAT		

SUMMARY

This bill increased the dependent supplement for unemployed workers from \$10 to \$25 per week per child.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-279), the minority report, replaced the original bill, increased the dependent supplement to \$15, and provided that no charges may be made to the experience rating record of individual employers for the supplement. It also added an appropriation and a fiscal note.

LD 1263**An Act Concerning the Resolution of Medical, Work-capacity and Return-to-work Issues and Procedures under the Workers' Compensation Act****ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BAILEY R	ONTP	
GOULD R A		

SUMMARY

This bill authorized the Department of Human Services to have the facility conducting Social Security disability determinations to conduct medical examinations for workers' compensation with the cost paid by the employer. It declared the filing of a claim for payment to be a release to the employer of all medical records, pre-injury or post-injury, pertaining to the condition that gives rise to the claim. It required the employee's treating physician to submit to the employer medical reports within 48 hours of the first visit after the workplace injury and monthly thereafter. It changed the availability of work to the ordinary competitive labor market in the state in determining the degree of an employee's incapacity. It established an employer or commissioner option for an independent medical examination binding on all parties and not subject to further commission action. It deleted the deadline of 10 years after the date of last payment for petitions. It altered the provisions for reduction or suspension of benefits and allowed discontinuances without an employee's signature. It required the commission to notify employees receiving compensation of their return to employment obligations and the penalties for violation of that section. It allowed an employer receiving a return to work report to automatically reduce or discontinue benefits.

LD 1322**An Act to Clarify Appellate Procedures under the Public Sector Labor Laws****PUBLIC 143**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
HASTINGS	OTP	
GAUVREAU		
CONLEY		

SUMMARY

This bill altered the following regarding appellate procedures under the public sector labor laws:

1. It amended the laws to conform to Rule 80C of the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure;