

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
115TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
LABOR

MAY 1992

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES**

**MAY 1992**

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 far right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

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

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, especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

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

**An Act to Correct an Inconsistency Between the Maine  
Employment Security Law and the Federal Unemployment Tax Act****SPONSOR(S)**HASTINGS  
CARPENTER  
BENNETT**COMMITTEE REPORT**

OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

H-1025

**SUMMARY**

Public Law 1991, chapter 193 added an exclusion from unemployment insurance for individuals in the employ of a governmental entity serving on a temporary basis in case of medical emergency. Such an exclusion is not allowed under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, 26 United States Code, Section 3304(a)(6)(A) and Section 3309(b)(3)(D). This bill removed that exclusion.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1025) added a fiscal note.

**An Act to Reform Unemployment Compensation Guidelines in  
Maine****SPONSOR(S)**RAND  
MCHENRY**COMMITTEE REPORT**

OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**H-1189  
H-1298 MCHENRY**SUMMARY**

This bill established an alternative base period for determining unemployment compensation eligibility, so that individuals with the required amount of earnings can qualify even if those wages were earned closer to the time of application for unemployment compensation benefits than is allowed under current law.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1189) replaced the original bill and removed an earnings requirement of at least two times the average weekly wage in each of two calendar quarters. The amendment also established a higher earnings requirement for individuals eligible for extended benefits or Emergency Unemployment Compensation, so that they could continue to receive those federally supported benefits. It also deferred one-half of the scheduled increase in the maximum weekly benefit due in June, 1992 to June 1993 and the other half of the increase until June, 1994. The amendment stated that federally allocated positions within the Department of Labor may not be subject to furlough days and shutdown days, subject to the agreement of the parties to any collective bargaining agreements. A fiscal note was also added.

House Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1298) replaced the Committee Amendment changes in earnings requirements in response to notice that the federal government withdrew its support of those changes. The House Amendment established an alternate base period of the last 4 completed quarters immediately preceding the individual's benefit year. The amendment gave the department authority to establish procedures to gather wage information for this purpose. The House Amendment ensured that an individual enrolled in a degree-granting program, rather than an approved training program, would not automatically be denied benefits. The House Amendment also included the same provisions on the deferral of the scheduled maximum benefit increase and furlough days for federally allocated positions that were in the Committee Amendment. A fiscal note was also included.