

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR**

JUNE 1996

MEMBERS:

Sen. Charles M. Begley, Chair

Sen. S. Peter Mills

Sen. Anne M. Rand

Rep. Pamela H. Hatch, Chair

Rep. John L. Tuttle

Rep. Gail M. Chase

Rep. Patricia Lemaire

Rep. Roland B. Samson

Rep. Henry L. Joy

Rep. Steven Joyce

Rep. Robert E. Pendleton, Jr.

Rep. Vaughn A. Stedman

Rep. Tom J. Winsor

Staff:

Lisa C. Copenhaver, Legislative Analyst

David C. Elliott, Principal Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207)287-1670



**Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

***Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
June 1996***

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

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

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 4, 1996.

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

LD 483

An Act to Abolish the Legislative Retirement System

DIED BETWEEN
HOUSES

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
UNDERWOOD	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 483, which was carried over from the First Regular Session, proposed to limit continued membership in the Maine Legislative Retirement System after September 30, 1995 to legislators who had 10 years of creditable service as of that date. The benefits of former legislators currently receiving a retirement allowance or a disability retirement allowance were not affected by this bill. Former and current legislators who, as of September 30, 1995, were eligible to receive a retirement benefit at some point in the future would not have had their accrued benefits affected. The Board of Trustees of the Maine Legislative Retirement System would have continued to oversee the administration of the system until all of the remaining beneficiaries of the system died. At that time, the system was directed to submit legislation to repeal the Legislative Retirement System.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-881), which is the minority report of the committee in the Second Session, proposed to limit continued membership in the Maine Legislative Retirement System after December 3, 1996 to legislators who are vested as of that date. Former legislators or their beneficiaries who are currently receiving a retirement allowance or legislators who are receiving a disability retirement allowance would not have had their benefits affected by this amendment. Former and current legislators who are vested and, therefore, are eligible to receive a retirement benefit at some point in the future would not have had their accrued benefits affected and could continue to accrue service credit for future legislative service.

The Board of Trustees of the Maine Legislative Retirement System would have continued to oversee the administration of the Maine Legislative Retirement System. Once all of the liabilities of the system had been discharged, the system was directed to submit legislation to repeal the Legislative Retirement System.

After December 3, 1996, current legislators not remaining members of the Maine Legislative Retirement System and future legislators would have been required to join either a 401(a) deferred compensation plan or a 457 defined contribution plan or both. The amendment proposed that legislators must contribute at least 7.5% of their compensation to one of the plans. Additional contributions above that level would have been subject to federal law. The State would not have contributed to the plans on behalf of legislators. The plans would have been administered by the Maine State Retirement System and any gains realized by the Maine State Retirement System as a result of this amendment used to reduce the unfunded liability of the Maine State Retirement System attributable to state employees and teachers.

The amendment also proposed to add an appropriation and a fiscal note. (The amendment was adopted in the Senate, but failed in the House.)