

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR

AUGUST 1995

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Sen. Anne M. Rand*

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**Denotes Chair*



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**ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION BEFORE
THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES**

AUGUST 1995

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing 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. The publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, is helpful in determining to which committee any particular bill was referred.

In this document, the committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number, together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various categories of final action are abbreviated as follows:

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

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If more detailed information is needed on a bill, contact the committee analyst.

5581LHS

LD 887

**An Act to Encourage Job Creation by Exempting Small
Businesses from the Current Workers' Compensation System**

CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)
WATERHOUSE

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill exempts employers with 5 or fewer employees from the requirement to obtain workers' compensation insurance. In order to be exempt and to obtain a defense against claims by insured employees, the employer would have to provide disability and health insurance coverage to all employees. The committee reported this bill out as a divided report, with the majority ONTP, and the minority OTP-A. Eventually, the bill was re-referred to the Banking and Insurance Committee which received approval to carry this bill over to the Second Regular Session.

**LD 917 An Act to Establish Occupational Health and Safety
Standards for Operators of Video Display Terminals**

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
MCCORMICK

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have required all employers in this State who use 2 or more video display terminals to: locate video display terminals in such a way as to reduce glare on the video display screen caused by reflected light; provide swivel chairs for operators, unless the operator specifically declines such a chair; provide flexible work breaks for video display terminal operators; and provide for paid leave for vision examinations. The bill also included enforcement and penalty provisions. The committee wrote a letter to the Commission on Safety and Health in the Maine Workplace asking them to consider the safety issues related to video display terminals and report back in 1997 on how the Legislature and Maine employers can best address the issue.

**LD 924 An Act to Repeal Laws Regarding Minimum Wages on
Construction Projects**

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
LOOK

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP MAJ
OTP-AM MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would have repealed what is sometimes called "the mini Davis-Bacon Act" or the State's prevailing wage law. That law requires that in the employment of laborers in state-funded construction projects, the workers must be paid the amount set by the Department of Labor for that job classification based on the prior year's prevailing wage paid in that locality for similar types of construction.

**LD 926 An Act to Prevent Impasse in Collective Bargaining by
Allowing Parties of Either Side to Request Mediation**

CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)
SAMSON

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED