

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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**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:

<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 enacted 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>

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

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CLARK	OTP-AM MAJ	
	ONTP MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill would have amended the Occupational Disease Law to provide the same level of coverage for all occupational diseases as is currently provided for radiation-related and asbestos-related diseases. The definition of "occupational disease" is amended to clarify that it does not include repetitive trauma syndromes, which are covered under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act as injuries. This bill also rejects the holding of the Maine Law Court in Manzo v. Great Northern Paper Company, 615 A.2d 605 (Me. 1992) by amending the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 and the Occupational Disease Law to provide that an employee who has been diagnosed as having an occupational disease is entitled to medical services even if the employee has not been incapacitated by the disease. The majority committee amendment would have retained only those provisions in the original bill that relate to the Manzo decision. The amendment would have provided that the employee is entitled to medical benefits even if the employee is not yet incapacitated by the occupational disease. These medical benefits would not be available unless the diagnosis of the occupational disease was made within 3 years of the last injurious exposure, the same limitation that applies to wage loss benefits for an occupational disease. The amendment made these changes retroactive to the day after the Manzo decision, regardless of the date of the diagnosis.

LD 1364 **Resolve, Concerning the Workweek of Department of Corrections Personnel** ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BUSTIN	OTP-AM MAJ	
	ONTP MIN	

SUMMARY

This resolve would have increased the basic workweek for certain Department of Corrections personnel from 40 hours per week to 42.5 hours per week.

LD 1476 **An Act to Establish the Employee Partnership Reward Act** CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PINGREE		

SUMMARY

This bill creates a performance-based reward plan that provides incentives for awards to employees and directs the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development to establish a program to promote the implementation of performance-based reward plans and employee decision-making participation programs. This bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 1478 **An Act to Create a Special Accidental Death Benefit for the Surviving Family Members of Law Enforcement Officers Killed in the Line of Duty** ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CAREY	ONTP	