

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES

AUGUST 1995

**MEMBERS:**

*\*Sen. Joan M. Pendexter  
Sen. John W. Benoit  
Sen. Rochelle M. Pingree*

*\*Rep. Michael J. Fitzpatrick  
Rep. Birger T. Johnson  
Rep. David Etnier  
Rep. J. Elizabeth Mitchell  
Rep. David C. Shiah  
Rep. Kyle W. Jones  
Rep. Glenys P. Lovett  
Rep. Jeffery Joyner  
Rep. Jean Ginn Marvin  
Rep. Robert J. Winglass*

**Staff:**

*Jane Orbeton, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207)287-1670*

*\*Denotes Chair*



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

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

**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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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

This bill expands the emergency assistance program to increase the state expenditure and to provide assistance to families with children who are at risk of losing a job or of being unable to accept a job offer due to a temporary crisis. Assistance would include, but would not be limited to, emergency automobile repairs, insurance, or mandatory fees necessary to allow a person transportation to and from the job, one-time child care costs necessary to work, or assistance for items such as tools of the trade, uniforms, clothing or nonreimbursable medical care, including eye care or dental care, necessary to perform the job.

This bill ensures that children are properly provided with health insurance.

This bill increases incrementally the minimum wage to an amount necessary to equal the federal poverty level for a family of 3.

This bill requires that employers must provide unpaid sick time, accrued at the rate of 8 hours per month of full-time employment, for employees who need to take time off from work because either they are sick or they need to take care of a child or dependent who is sick. Workers would also be able to use the time for preventative care.

This bill provides for the public recognition of employers who have adopted family-friendly practices in their workplaces by means of certification by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

This bill requires the Maine Technical College System, the University of Maine System and the Department of Education, Division of Adult and Community Education to inventory the unmet child care needs of their students and develop a plan for meeting those needs and to report back to the Legislature.

This bill establishes a demonstration project in one office of the Department of Human Services to provide comprehensive assistance to working families.

This bill establishes the Commission to Prevent Poverty among Working Parents that must make its report to the First Regular Session of the 118th Legislature. This bill provides funding for the commission.

This bill also provides the state appropriation of \$2,050,000 for fiscal years 1995-96 and 1996-97 and the federal allocation of \$3,250,000 for fiscal years 1995-96 and 1996-97 to allow the Department of Human Services to draw down the full amount of the federal money available for the ASPIRE program.

See also LD 1496.

**LD 1392**      **An Act to Allow Smoking in One-room Establishments with Lunch Counters That Post Smoking Signs**

**DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

**SPONSOR(S)**

DORE

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

ONTP                      MAJ  
OTP-AM                    MIN

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill allows restaurants and establishments with lunch counters that seat 25 patrons or less to designate the entire restaurant for smoking use if they post a sign at or near the entrance stating that smoking is allowed in all of the restaurant.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-324) is the minority report of the committee. It exempts from the restaurant no-smoking law variety stores that serve food, are 1 room only, seat up to 36 persons and post signs. The amendment was accepted in the House. The Senate accepted the "ought-not-to-pass" report. The House accepted the Committee of Conference report. The Senate did not. The bill died between bodies.