

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 electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR

JULY 1997

Staff:

Lisa C. Copenhaver, Legislative Analyst
Thomas H. Eyman, 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

MEMBERS:

Sen. Mary R. Cathcart, Chair
Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat
Sen. S. Peter Mills

Rep. Pamela H. Hatch, Chair
Rep. Roland B. Samson
Rep. Brian Bolduc
Rep. Joseph E. Clark
Rep. Benjamin L. Rines, Jr.
Rep. Stephen S. Stanley
Rep. Henry L. Joy
Rep. Steven M. Joyce
Rep. Robert E. Pendleton, Jr.
Rep. Russell P. Treadwell



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 EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
August 1997

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. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

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 Regular 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 IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</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/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</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>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</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>Bill held by Governor</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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 26, 1997 and September 19, 1997 for the First Special Session.

David E. Boulter, Director
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

LD 173

An Act to Provide Disclosure of the Bureau of Unemployment Compensation Records and Reports to Authorized Agents

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PENDLETON R CATHCART	ONTP	

LD 173 would have required state and local child-support enforcement agencies or their authorized agents to obtain access to employment security records for the purpose of expanding procedures relating to establishing paternity or for establishing, modifying or enforcing child-support orders. This bill is related to the federal Public Law 104-193, commonly called the welfare reform bill, enacted in August of 1996.

LD 174

An Act to Increase Health Insurance Benefits for Retired Educators CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LEMAIRE NUTTING		

LD 174 proposes to increase the State's contribution for health insurance for retired educators from 25% to 30% of the cost of the insurance coverage.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-154) would have added an appropriation section to the bill to fund the increased cost to the State.

The bill, which received a divided report from the committee, was initially engrossed as amended by the committee amendment and sent to the Special Appropriations Table. At the end of the session, rather than fund the bill, the bill was recommitted to the Appropriations Committee and carried over by that committee to the Second Regular Session. LD 277 was a related bill.

LD 177

An Act to Amend the Child Labor Laws as They Pertain to Employment of Minors 15 Years of Age

PUBLIC 347

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WINSOR BENOIT	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-478

LD 177 proposed to amend the child labor laws to prohibit minors 14 years of age from working in a restaurant or eating place. It also would allow minors 15 years of age to work in the kitchens, dining rooms, lobbies and offices of motels year round rather than just in the summer.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-478) Proposed to delete from the original bill the prohibition on minors 14 years of age working in a restaurant or eating establishment.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 347 permits minors 15 years of age to work in the kitchens, dining rooms, lobbies and offices of motels year round rather than just in the summer. This chapter also prohibits 14 year olds from working in the manufacturing and retailing of frozen dairy products. This latter change was subsequently repealed in LD 1902.

LD 178 **An Act to Permit an Employer to Offer a Compressed Time Workweek to Consenting Employees** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WINSOR SMALL	ONTP	

LD 178 proposed to change the overtime law to allow an employer to have an employee work 44 hours in a single workweek without overtime compensation followed by 36 hours in the subsequent workweek, resulting in a two-week work period equal to 80 hours. The bill proposed procedures to ensure that each employee freely consented to such a compressed workweek arrangement.

LD 189 **An Act to Exempt Companies That Employ 5 People or Fewer from Carrying Workers' Compensation Insurance** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VIGUE MITCHELL B	ONTP	

LD 189 proposed to allow employers of five or fewer employees to choose not to utilize the workers' compensation system and would have required those employers to maintain liability insurance, health care coverage and disability income coverage. Employers who elect the option proposed in the bill would still be responsible for assessment under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24-A, chapter 26, the "fresh start" provisions of workers' compensation insurance.

LD 196 **An Act to Require the State to Pay Medicare Costs for Retired State Employees and Retired Teachers** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HATCH		

LD 196 proposed to require the Maine State Retirement System to pay Medicare Part B premiums for state employees and teachers who are automatically transferred from state-paid health insurance coverage to Medicare when they reach 65 and become eligible for Social Security. The bill was carried over.