

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
AND
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR

MAY 1998

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Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat
Sen. S. Peter Mills*

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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 1998

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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:

- CON RES XXX*..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
- CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
- DIED BETWEEN BODIES*.....House & Senate disagree; bill died
- DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
- EMERGENCY*.....Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....Bill failed to get majority vote
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*.....Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
- INDEF PP*.....Bill Indefinitely Postponed
- ONTP*..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
- OTP ND*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
- OTP ND/NT*..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
- P&S XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
- PUBLIC XXX*..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
- RESOLVE XXX*..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
- UNSIGNED*.....Bill held by Governor
- VETO SUSTAINED*.....Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

LD 174 **An Act to Increase Health Insurance Benefits for Retired Educators** **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LEMAIRE NUTTING		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 174 which was considered by the Labor Committee last session, carried over from the First Session by the Appropriations Committee and rereferred to the Labor Committee this year, proposed to increase the State's contribution for the cost of health insurance premiums for retired educators from 25 percent to 30 percent. Again, this year the bill was reported out of the Labor Committee with a divided report, enacted in the House and engrossed and sent to the Special Appropriations Table in the Senate. From there the bill was folded into LD 1950, the Governor's Supplemental Budget bill (see PL 1997, chapter 643, Part OO), and this bill was then indefinitely postponed.

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

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> HATCH		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 196 proposed to require the state to pay Medicare Part B premiums for state retirees and retired teachers who are Medicare eligible.

LD 300 **An Act to Prohibit an Employer from Hiring Replacement Workers during a Strike** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> SAMSON CATHCART		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 300 was carried over from the First Session and proposed to prohibit an employer from hiring replacement workers during a labor dispute, strike or lockout. The bill also proposed to repeal the provision of current law that makes it a Class D crime for a person involved in a labor dispute, strike or lockout to be armed with a dangerous weapon at a site where an employer involved in a labor dispute, strike or lockout is accepting applications from, conducting interviews of or performing medical examinations of potential employees.