

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
LABOR

JULY 1997

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**Maine State Legislature**

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**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](http://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:

- CARRIED OVER*.....*Bill carried over to Second Regular Session*
- 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 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*

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**Enacted law summary**

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 12 is the Maine State Retirement Systems annual operating budget for the 1997-98 fiscal year. Legislative approval of the annual budget is required by law. As also required by law, chapter 12 approves the recently ratified collective bargaining agreement with the system's administrative services, professional-technical and supervisory employees. This law also authorizes use of reserve administrative operating funds during FY 1997-98 in the following amounts for the following uses: (1) \$131,251 to fund the collective bargaining agreement, (2) \$500,000 to reduce General Fund charges for administrative expenses attributable to the teacher retirement program and (3) up to \$1.2 million to fund a temporary records automation project. Chapter 12 was enacted as an emergency measure effective July 1, 1997.

**LD 300                      An Act to Prohibit an Employer from Hiring Replacement Workers CARRIED OVER During a Strike**

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

LD 300 proposes to prohibit an employer from hiring replacement workers during a labor dispute. This bill also proposes to repeal that provision of current law that makes it a Class D crime for a person involved in a labor dispute to be armed with a dangerous weapon. This bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session.

**LD 321                      An Act to Amend the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 as DIED BETWEEN It Relates to Compensation for Total Incapacity                      BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOODWIN CATHCART	OTP-AM    MAJ ONTP        MIN	

LD 321 proposed to amend the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 to provide a lump sum benefit in addition to the current weekly benefit when the employee's injury is an amputation or total loss of function of a body part. The amount of the lump sum benefit would be equal to the amount of the weekly benefit times the period of presumed incapacity.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-616)** proposed to limit the benefits payable under the bill to amputations by eliminating the availability of benefits when there is functional loss of a body part.