

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

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

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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

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-358) proposed to change the reporting date to January 1, 1998, limit per diem and expenses to commission members who are Legislators, and limit the commission to 4 meetings.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1997, chapter 65 establishes the Commission to Study the Unemployment Compensation System, made up of four Legislators, the State Advisory Council, the Commissioner of Labor and one member representing women's issues, to assess whether the changing needs of the labor force and the business community are being met. The Commission may meet up to four times to study and make recommendations regarding the following issues: the seasonality exclusion, disqualification of persons who lose work because of child care or transportation problems, the extended benefit trigger, and benefit duration for the dislocated worker benefit program, the solvency of the unemployment compensation fund, the experience rating system, the disqualification of persons who seek part-time work, and minimum earnings thresholds. The Commission must report to the Labor Committee by February 1, 1998, with its recommendations and any necessary legislation. Resolve, chapter 65 was enacted as an emergency measure effective on June 12, 1997.

LD 336 **An Act Regarding Survivor Benefits in the Event of Divorce and Remarriage** **ONTP**

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

LD 336 proposed to eliminate from the current law governing survivor benefits paid by the Maine State Retirement System the requirement that a spouse or former spouse who was originally named retirement beneficiary must agree to a change of beneficiary after a divorce. The bill allows a recipient of a reduced service retirement benefit to name a new beneficiary after a divorce without the permission of the former spouse.

LD 346 **An Act to Exempt Retail Shoe Store Employees Who Are Paid on a Commission Basis from the Minimum Wage Laws** **ONTP**

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

LD 346 proposed to exempt retail shoe store employees whose pay is at least one and one-half times the minimum wage from the overtime provisions of the minimum wage laws.