

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

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

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Rep. Robert E. Pendleton, Jr.

Rep. Russell P. Treadwell

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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.

LD 568**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study Poverty Among Working Parents with Regard to Raising the Minimum Wage****VETO
SUSTAINED**

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

LD 568 was carried over from the First Session and proposed to establish a new state minimum wage that is 25 cents per hour more than the federal minimum wage. The bill also proposed an annual adjustment in the state minimum wage, based on the increase in the state average weekly wage.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-829) was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and proposed to replace the bill. The amendment proposed to establish a minimum wage of \$5.40 per hour, beginning January 1, 1999, and to maintain the current requirement that the state minimum wage be at least as high as the federal minimum wage. The amendment also proposed to add an appropriation and a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 633**An Act to Provide a Cost-of-living Adjustment to Minimum Wage Earners****INDEF PP**

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

LD 633 was carried over from the First Session and proposed to increase the state's minimum wage each year by the amount of the percent increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-828) was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and was not adopted. The amendment proposed to establish a minimum wage of \$5.40 beginning January 1, 1999. The amendment also proposed to automatically increase the state minimum wage every three years thereafter, by the cumulative increase in the Consumer Price Index over the three previous Septembers.

LD 688**An Act to Increase Maine's Minimum Wage****ONTP**

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

LD 688 was carried over from the First Session. The bill proposed to raise the state minimum wage to \$5.60 per hour effective January 1, 1998 and to \$6.05 per hour effective January 1, 1999. The bill also proposed to maintain the current requirement that the state minimum wage be at least as high as the federal minimum wage.