

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).

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

Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

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

LD 1497, Part A, proposed to eliminate the present legislative retirement system for Legislators not vested on December 1, 1998. After that date, current non-vested and future newly elected Legislators would have elected to join either a 401(a) defined contribution plan, a 457 deferred contribution plan, both plans or Social Security. Legislators participating in the 401(a) or 457 plans would contribute at least 7.5% of their compensation to one of the plans. Additional contributions above that level would have been possible subject to federal law. The State would have contributed a like amount on behalf of each Legislator up to the then-assessed employer contribution rate under Social Security.

Part B of this bill required Legislators to pay 20% of their health insurance and 60% of their dependents' health insurance premiums.

This and several other bills proposing major changes in the retirement plans for state employees, teachers or legislators were reported out ONTP, and LD related bill 1370 was carried over to the Second Regular Session. That bill could serve as a legislative vehicle to address retirement plan changes in 1998. See also LD 979.

LD 1498

An Act to Require Step-pay Increases in Wages in Expired Collective Bargaining Agreements

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COWGER TREAT	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

The purpose of LD 1498 is to address the issue raised in Board of Trustees of Univ. v. Assoc. COLT, 659 A.2d 842, 846 (Me. 1995). This bill proposed to require a state or municipal public employer to pay wages according to the wage plan of an expired collective bargaining agreement, including step-pay increases or any pay raises derived from a wage-escalator clause in the expired plan during the period of mediation, fact-finding or arbitration and before a new collective bargaining agreement takes effect.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-671) was the minority report of the committee and was not adopted. It proposed to remove from the bill changes to the laws governing municipal public employees labor relations and amend the laws governing University of Maine System labor relations and judicial employees labor relations. With the amendment, the bill would require the State, the Judicial Branch and public employers subject to laws governing the University of Maine System to continue to pay wage increases according to the wage plan of an expired collective bargaining agreement until impasse is reached. The amendment would permit the parties to negotiate a specific agreement for an alternative method for handling wage increases following the expiration of the collective bargaining agreement. An application section limited the scope of the bill to those contracts negotiated after October 1, 1997.