

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

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LD 1734

An Act to Remove the Disqualification for Unemployment Insurance Benefits for Claimants Who Are Locked Out by an Employer

PUBLIC 391

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HATCH CATHCART	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-501

LD 1734 proposed to remove the disqualification from unemployment compensation for employees who are locked out by an employer.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-501) This amendment proposed to add a definition of "lockout" to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 391 removes the disqualification from unemployment compensation for employees who are locked out by their employer.

LD 1753

An Act to Preserve the Solvency of the Unemployment Compensation Fund

PUBLIC 380

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HATCH CATHCART	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-502

LD 1753 proposed to ensure the solvency of the Unemployment Compensation Fund by reducing the maximum weekly benefit amount by 6% from September 28, 1997 to September 26, 1998 and by reducing the weekly benefit amount by \$3 for all new claims filed in 1998. The bill proposed to impose a surtax on employers of 4/10 of 1% of covered wages and tax Schedule P for 1998. The proposals are based on recommendations of the state advisory council consisting of public, labor and business members appointed by the Commissioner of Labor. The bill also proposed a study of the solvency issue and various benefit eligibility issues with regard to the Unemployment Compensation Fund.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-502) proposed to delete the section of the original bill that requires the Commissioner of Labor to study the unemployment compensation program. The solvency of the Unemployment Compensation Fund will be studied by the commission created by LD 332.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 380 protects the solvency of the Unemployment Compensation Fund by reducing the maximum weekly benefit amount by 6% from September 28, 1997 to September 26, 1998 and by reducing the weekly benefit amount by \$3 for all new claims filed in 1998. The law also imposes a surtax on employers of 4/10 of 1% of covered wages and tax Schedule P for 1998.