

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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MEMBERS:

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Sen. Sharon Anglin Treat
Sen. S. Peter Mills*

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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

LD 1755

Resolve, to Study the Efficiency of the State's Work Force Development Programs

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
WINN

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1755 proposed to establish the Work Force Development Study Group, with representatives from a variety of agencies and individuals interested in work force development. The study group would have been required to review the various work force development programs and develop and implement a plan to streamline and coordinate work force development efforts. The study group would have been required to place particular emphasis on increasing the amount of students served with existing resources and on incorporating the needs of at-risk students, special education students and rural or geographically disadvantaged students. See LD 1815.

LD 1797

An Act to Amend the Provisions of the Disability Retirement Laws Administered by the Maine State Retirement System

**PUBLIC 384
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)
HATCH

Committee Report
OTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1797 was presented by the retirement system as a housekeeping bill. The bill proposed to repeal the requirement that members of the Judicial Retirement System file statements of health. Public Law 1995, chapter 643, enacted in 1996, repealed the requirement that state employees, Legislators and participating local district employees file statements of health at the time of employment as the statements are no longer used by the Maine State Retirement System. In addition the clarified various disability retirement provisions of current law. This bill also proposed to reenact language that, for the reason of clarity, should not have been deleted by amendments enacted by Public Law 1991, chapter 887.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 384 repeals the requirement that members of the Judicial Retirement System file a statement of health, clarifies various provisions of current disability retirement law and reenacts certain disability retirement provisions that were erroneously repealed. Chapter 384 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 31, 1997.

LD 1815

An Act to Enhance the State's Work Force Development System

PUBLIC 410

Sponsor(s)
CATHCART
HATCH

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-634 HATCH
S-246

LD 1815 proposed to combine nine existing workforce councils into one council called the Maine Jobs Council. The proposed council's purpose is to provide ongoing oversight of Maine's workforce development system and to make recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on ways to improve that system. The nine

organizations proposed to be collapsed into the new Maine Jobs Council are: The Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, the Maine Council on Vocational Education, the Maine Enterprise Option Advisory Committee, the Maine Human Resource Development Council, the Maine Occupational Information Coordinating Committee, the School-to-Work CO2 Executive Committee, the School-to-Work CO2 Delegate Agency Council, the School-to-Work CO2 Steering Committee and the State Apprenticeship Council.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-246) proposed to clarify the responsibilities of the Maine Jobs Council and proposed that the council have the additional responsibility of ensuring balance between rural and urban workforce development. The amendment also would have required that consideration be given to the balance among small, medium and large firms within the business representation on the council, and clarified that organized labor comprise no less than 15% of the total membership on the council. The amendment proposed to completely replace the specified functions and duties of the council with language to clarify that the council's role is to provide policy recommendations, and in some cases oversight, in the areas listed. The amendment also proposed that the responsibilities of the State Apprenticeship and Training Council be assumed by the Maine Jobs Council through its subcommittee on apprenticeship.

House Amendment "A" (H-634) This amendment proposed two punctuation corrections.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 410 combines nine existing workforce councils into one council called the Maine Jobs Council. The council's purpose is to provide ongoing policy recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature on Maine's workforce development system and to provide oversight of certain aspects of that system. The nine organizations collapsed into the new Maine Jobs Council are: The Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, the Maine Council on Vocational Education, the Maine Enterprise Option Advisory Committee, the Maine Human Resource Development Council, the Maine Occupational Information Coordinating Committee, the School-to-Work CO2 Executive Committee, the School-to-Work CO2 Delegate Agency Council, the School-to-Work CO2 Steering Committee and the State Apprenticeship Council.

LD 1839

An Act to Promote Temporary Service by Retired Public Employees

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
CHIZMAR

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1839 would have provided that if a recipient of a service retirement benefit under the Maine State Retirement System is restored to service and enters into a written agreement with the recipient's employer that provides that any part of the compensation for services be deferred to a subsequent year, this deferred compensation must be treated as having been received in the year in which it is actually paid.