

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
Rep. Henry L. Joy
Rep. Steven M. Joyce
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 1910

An Act to Grant the Treasurer of State Full Voting Rights on the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System

PUBLIC 625

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HATCH	OTP-AM MAJ	H-868
TREAT	ONTP MIN	

LD 1910 proposed to give the Treasurer of State voting rights on the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-868) proposed to increase from four to five the number of trustees on the board necessary to constitute a quorum and the number of votes necessary for the board to conduct business.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 625 gives the Treasurer of State voting rights on the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System and increases from four to five the number of trustees on the eight-member board that constitutes a quorum and the number of votes necessary for the board to conduct business.

LD 1936

An Act Regarding Pension Benefits for Former Governors

ONTP

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

LD 1936 proposed to provide a pension benefit to a former Governor or the spouse of a former Governor equal to 3/8 of the current Governor's salary.

LD 1949

An Act to Allow Maine Technical College System Employees Represented by the Maine Education Association Faculty and Administrative Units to Participate in a Defined Contribution Retirement Plan

PUBLIC 763

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E	OTP-AM	H-1027
CATHCART		S-720 MICHAUD

LD 1949 proposed to authorize the option of participating in a defined contribution retirement plan instead of the Maine State Retirement System for new employees of the Maine Technical College System in the faculty and administrative bargaining units and would provide an opportunity for existing employees in those units to elect to participate in a defined contribution retirement plan to be offered by the Technical College System.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1027) proposed to clarify application of the bill. The amendment proposed to:

1. Establish that the option is a one-time, irrevocable choice for eligible employees and that employees must be members in either the retirement system or the defined contribution plan, but may not be members of both;
2. Prohibit membership in the defined contribution plan from being counted as creditable service under the retirement system;
3. Describe the process for current and future employees to exercise their option;
4. Prescribe the respective responsibilities, if any, for the technical college system and the retirement system for education of employees regarding exercise of their option, recording and reporting the results of employee elections and settling any disputes that may arise;
5. Provide for continued membership in the state group health insurance plan for participants in the defined contribution plan after retirement with the premium costs to be paid by the technical college system;
6. Require the technical college system to provide a disability benefit program for employees who participate in the defined contribution plan;
7. Provide for the payment of the unfunded liability and administrative costs of the retirement system on behalf of technical college system employees who opt out of the retirement system with contributions at the current rate to be made by the technical college system until June 30, 1999. After that date those costs will be absorbed by other state funds; and
8. Add a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-720) proposed to require the Maine Technical College System to continue to contribute toward the payment of certain fixed costs of the Maine State Retirement System and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services on behalf of system employees who elect to participate in a defined contribution plan rather than ending those contributions on June 30, 1999.

The amendment also proposed to direct the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, the Maine Technical College System and representatives of the system's bargaining units to work to develop strategies to create funding methods for future collectively bargained salary increases.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 763 establishes an option for Maine Technical College System employees in the faculty and administrative bargaining units to participate in a defined contribution retirement plan offered by the Board of Trustees of the TCS instead of the Maine State Retirement System. Participants in the defined contribution plan are eligible for coverage under the state group health insurance plan with premiums to be paid by the technical college system. The technical college system must provide a disability benefit program for employees who participate in the defined contribution plan. The technical college system is also responsible for the payment of fixed costs of the retirement system and the Department of Administrative and Financial Services associated the increase in the unfunded liability of the retirement system and costs of administering this law.