

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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TREAT HATCH	OTP-AM	S-550

LD 1954 proposed to restore the definition of "earnable compensation", the previous higher cap on earnable compensation and the exclusions to income being counted as earnable compensation that were in place prior to the benefit changes in the Maine State Retirement System that were enacted by P.L. 1991, chapter 591 and P.L. 1993, chapter 410.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-550) replaced the bill. The amendment proposed to change the title of the bill, add an emergency preamble and emergency clause and make the following technical changes to retirement laws:

1. Repeal the current law that limits to the first five years after termination of service the length of time on which interest is paid on members' contributions to the Maine State Retirement System that are refunded to the member upon termination of membership in the system.
2. Change the date on which the retirement system is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor from January 15th to March 1st of each year.
3. Expand the potential membership on the Early Retirement Incentives Panel established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 17159, subsection 4 to include any member of the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System, except members who are active or retired teachers or school administrators.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 651 repeals the current law that limits to the first five years after termination of service the length of time on which interest is paid on members' contributions to the Maine State Retirement System that are refunded to the member upon termination of membership in the system. It also changes the date on which the retirement system is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor from January 15th to March 1st of each year. Finally, chapter 951 expands the potential membership on the Early Retirement Incentives Panel established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 17159, subsection 4 to include any member of the Board of Trustees of the Maine State Retirement System, except members who are active or retired teachers or school administrators. Public Law 1997, chapter 651 was enacted as an emergency measure with the part of the amendment covering the membership of the Early Retirement Incentives Panel takes effect April 1, 1998 and the other provisions going into effect July 1, 1998.