

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

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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>
CATHCART HATCH	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-623

LD 1955 proposed to restore the normal retirement age for state employees and teachers in the Maine State Retirement System to 60 years of age.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-623) was used as a vehicle for one piece of committee's package of retirement changes. This amendment proposed to replace the bill and eliminate the requirement that in all cases state employees and teachers must be enrolled for at least one year immediately before retirement in order to qualify for continued participation in group health insurance coverage after retirement. The amendment proposed to provide a one-time option for state employees and teachers with 25 years of service who terminate employment but do not retire at that time to continue participation in their group health insurance plan until retirement if they pay the cost of that coverage. Regardless of whether that option is exercised, under the amendment, a state employee or teacher with 25 years of service who retires following a break in employment would be able to choose to rejoin the group health insurance plan at retirement.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 652 provides an option for state employees and teachers with 25 years of service who terminate covered employment but do not retire at that time to continue participation in the state or teacher group health plan if they pay the cost of that coverage. Regardless of whether that option is exercised, state employees or teachers with 25 years of creditable service who retire following a break in service may choose to rejoin their group health plan at retirement.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CATHCART	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-463

LD 1956 proposed to require that all workers engaged in construction projects for the Maine Turnpike Authority be paid no less than the prevailing wage, which is determined by the hourly wage paid to the median number of workers employed in the construction industry on the second and third weeks in September of each year.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-463) was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. It proposed to reorder the reference to the Maine Turnpike Authority and to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary