MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR

JULY 2000

MEMBERS:
Sen. Neria R. Douglass, Chair
Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III
Sen. S. Peter Mills

Rep. Pamela Henderson Hatch, Chair
Rep. Roland B. Samson
Rep. Zachary E. Matthews
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Rep. Adam Mack
Rep. Gerald M. Davis

Staff:
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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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*
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY .... *Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died*
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 August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

An Act to Abolish Apportionment in Workers' Compensation **ONTP**
Claims

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
MILLS	ONTP MAJ	
	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 586 proposed to adopt the "last injury rule" for workers' compensation cases where an employee suffers multiple successive injuries in the employment of 2 or more employers or under 2 or more insurers. Instead of apportioning responsibility among all employers in whose employment the worker was injured, the last injury rule assigns all responsibility to the last employer.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-483) proposed to clarify the bill and to add provisions to ensure that the rights of injured workers would not be impaired by adoption of the last injury rule.

LD 810 **An Act to Encourage Responsible Employment Practices** **PUBLIC 649**

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
CATHCART	OTP-AM MAJ	S-535
SHIAH	ONTP MIN	

LD 810 proposed to establish employment practices that must be met by all employers who engage in public improvement or public works projects for the State, including a requirement that the employer provide health insurance coverage to employees and pay at least 50% of the cost of that coverage.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-535) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to authorize the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards within the Department of Labor to review information relating to an employer's compliance with workers' compensation and unemployment compensation laws during investigations to enforce laws under the jurisdiction of that bureau. It also proposed to require the director to report suspected violations of workers' compensation and unemployment compensation laws to the agencies responsible for enforcing them.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 649 authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Labor Standards within the Department of Labor to review information relating to an employer's compliance with workers' compensation and unemployment compensation laws during investigations to enforce laws under the jurisdiction of that bureau. It also requires the director to report suspected violations of workers' compensation and unemployment compensation laws to the agencies responsible for enforcing them.