

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
LABOR**

**JULY 1999**

***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*

*Rep. Roger D. Frechette*

*Rep. Albion D. Goodwin*

*Rep. Christopher T. Muse*

*Rep. Russell P. Treadwell*

*Rep. Jay MacDougall*

*Rep. Adam Mack*

*Rep. Gerald M. Davis*

***Staff:***

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**ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees**  
**August 1999**

We are pleased to provide this summary of all 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](http://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  
*ENACTMENT FAILED*..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage  
*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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999.

**An Act to Amend the Requirement that the Employment Rehabilitation Fund Reimburse Employers and Insurers for Benefits Paid pursuant to the Benefits Adjustments**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM MAJ	S-239
	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 762 proposed to eliminate the requirement that the Employment Rehabilitation Fund reimburse employers and insurers for benefits paid to employees pursuant to the benefit adjustment laws for employees with partial incapacity.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Workers' Compensation Commission.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-239)**, the majority report of the committee, proposed to continue reimbursement from the Employment Rehabilitation Fund for additional weeks of benefits payable under the benefits adjustment law for injuries that occurred prior to January 1, 2000 and to discontinue reimbursement of payments relating to injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2000.

**Committee Amendment "B" (S-240)**, the minority report, proposed to discontinue reimbursement from the Employment Rehabilitation Fund for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2000, as in the majority report. The minority report also proposed to eliminate the adjustment of the maximum number of weeks of benefits and the adjustment to the impairment threshold for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2000. (not adopted)

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 404 eliminates the requirement that the Employment Rehabilitation Fund reimburse employers and insurers for benefits paid to employees pursuant to the benefits adjustment for partial incapacity for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2000. The law does not change the amount of benefit paid to employees.

**An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Law as It Pertains to Employer-selected Health Care Providers**

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

LD 776 proposed to repeal the law allowing an employer to select a health care provider for an injured employee for the first 10 days of health care under the workers' compensation laws.

**An Act to Require Insurance Companies to Pay Workers' Compensation Benefits until a Hearing is Called if Contesting Payments**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HATCH	ONTP	
DOUGLASS		

LD 778 proposed to repeal the law allowing employers, insurers and self-insurers to discontinue or reduce workers' compensation payments before a matter in dispute has been resolved.