

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

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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).

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.

LD 785**An Act to Restore State Funding for Mediation Services Provided by the
Maine Labor Relations Board** **DIED BETWEEN
BODIES**

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

LD 785 proposed to restore state funding for mediation services provided by the State under the municipal public employee labor relations laws.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-357) proposed to improve readability of the law relating to funding of mediation services and to clarify that the State pays for the first three days of mediation of disputes and the parties share equally the costs of mediation sessions after the first three days. (not adopted)

LD 787**An Act to Amend the Membership of the Commission on Safety and
Health in the Maine Workplace** **PUBLIC 162**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HATCH DOUGLASS	OTP-AM	H-260

LD 787 proposed to amend the laws governing the Commission on Safety and Health in the Maine Workplace to provide for a term of office for the commission's chair and vice-chair, provide for appointment of a vice-chair from the membership, and make the Commissioner of Labor, currently ex officio vice-chair, a regular member and allow the commissioner to appoint a designee to represent the department.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Labor.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-260) proposed to remove language allowing the Commissioner of Labor to appoint a designee to serve in the commissioner's place on the commission. It also proposed to allow the members of the commission to appoint the chair and vice-chair of the commission by majority vote, rather than having the Governor make the appointments.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 162 changes the law regarding the Commission on Safety and Health in the Maine Workplace to allow the commission to appoint a chair and vice-chair from among its members by majority vote and to provide a two-year term of office for the chair and vice-chair. It also provides that the Commissioner of Labor is an ex officio, nonvoting member of the commission. Under current law, the Governor appoints the chair of the commission and the Commissioner of Labor serves as vice-chair of the commission.