

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

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Rep. Jay MacDougall

Rep. Adam Mack

Rep. Gerald M. Davis

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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.

that the rules be amended to allow businesses to qualify even if they have a waiting period or a minimum work week to receive an employer contribution to health insurance premiums, or a graduated contribution schedule.

LD 829

An Act to Increase the State's Contribution for the Cost of Health Insurance Premiums for Retired Educators

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BERRY D PENDLETON	ONTP	

LD 829 proposed to increase the State's contribution for health insurance for retired educators from 30% to 50%. See also LD's 23, 1614 and 1730.

LD 835

Resolve, Establishing a Commission to Study the Interrelationship Among the Maine State Retirement System, Social Security and Tax-advantaged Accounts

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MURPHY T		

LD 835 proposes to establish the Commission to Study the Interrelationship among the Maine State Retirement System, federal Social Security System and tax-advantaged retirement accounts. The bill proposed a study commission consisting of 12 members, 6 with expertise or experience in retirement systems and 6 who are Legislators. The commission would report to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature and the Joint Standing Committee on Labor.

This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature.

LD 838

An Act to Provide Paralegal Assistants to the Workers' Compensation Advocate Program and an Auditor to the Monitoring, Auditing and Enforcement Program

PUBLIC 359

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TESSIER KONTOS	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-350

LD 838 proposed to establish 9 new paralegal assistant positions for the Workers' Compensation Board so that a Paralegal Assistant can be assigned to each Workers' Compensation Advocate employed by the board. It also proposed to increase the assessment limit of the board from \$6.6 million to \$7 million in order to allow sufficient funding levels for the new positions.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-350) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to add one auditor and 2 paralegal assistant positions to the Workers' Compensation Board, instead of providing for 9 paralegal positions. It also proposed to provide for a cap of \$6,735,000 on the assessments against insurers and self-insurers instead of \$7,000,000, as provided in the bill.