

# 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](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.

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.

**Enacted law summary**

Public Law 1999, chapter 359 adds one auditor and 2 paralegal assistant positions to the Workers' Compensation Board and increases the assessment limit of the board from \$6.6 million to \$6.735 million in order to allow sufficient funding levels for the new positions.

**LD 840                      An Act to Provide Binding Arbitration for Police Departments, Sheriff Departments and Professional Fire Departments                      DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

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

LD 840 proposed to make arbitration by employees of sheriff departments, police departments and professional fire departments binding with respect to monetary matters as well as all other matters.

**Committee Amendment “A” (H-351)**, the minority report of the committee, proposed to extend the binding arbitration on monetary issues to law enforcement officers employed by the State as well as for local officers. It also proposed to subject the arbitrator’s decision to a referendum for approval if the employer so requested. (not adopted)

**LD 847                      An Act to Reduce State Employee and Teacher Contributions to the Maine State Retirement System                      ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SHERMAN PARADIS	ONTP	

LD 847 proposed to remove the 1.15% increase in the employee contribution to the Maine State Retirement System (increasing the employee contribution rate to the current 7.65%) enacted with the benefit changes of 1993 and to return the contribution rate to 6.5% of earnable compensation. See also LD’s 380 and 1622.

**LD 880                      An Act to Extend the Jurisdiction of the Maine Labor Relations Board to Employees of Public Higher Education Institutions Who Have Been Employed for Less than 6 Months                      VETO SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BAKER PARADIS	OTP      MAJ ONTP    MIN	

LD 880 proposed to extend collective bargaining rights to persons employed in public higher education for less than six months.