

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**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:

Deborah C. Friedman, Principal Analyst

David C. Elliott, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

(207)287-1670



Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

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:

<i>CARRIED OVER</i>	<i>Bill carried over to Second Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>ENACTMENT FAILED</i>	<i>Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

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 1353 **An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Laws as They Pertain to Wage Statements** **ONTP**

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

LD 1353 proposed to amend the due date for an employer to file a wage statement for an employee who is receiving compensation payments. The proposed due date was 15 days after the employer had knowledge of the employee's injury or death for which compensation was being paid.

LD 1357 **Resolve, to Create a Commission to Study the Hearing Process of the Workers' Compensation Board** **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 1357 proposes to create a commission to study issues related to the workers' compensation hearing process, including the length of time needed to finally resolve cases.

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

LD 1358 **An Act to Promote Stability in Labor Management Relations in the Public Sector** **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 1358 proposes to amend the public employee labor relations laws to provide that the terms and conditions of an expired collective bargaining agreement remain in effect until a new contract is executed.

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

LD 1359 **An Act to Make the Unemployment Compensation Program More Responsive to the Needs of Today's Workforce and to Ensure the Solvency of the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund** **ONTP**

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

LD 1359 proposed to amend the unemployment compensation laws to provide access to unemployment compensation benefits for seasonal workers, persons who must restrict their work hours to part-time for good cause, and to persons who leave work because of lack of child care or transportation. It also proposed to increase the taxable wage base to \$16,000 and to adopt an array system to distribute tax rates among employers and to address the system's solvency problems.

LD 1376 **An Act to Expand the Uniform 1998 Special Retirement Plan to Include Baxter State Park Authority Rangers, Fire Marshals and Certain Additional Correctional Employees** **PUBLIC 493**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MCALEVEY PENDLETON	OTP-AM	H-687

LD 1376 proposed to amend the 1998 Special Plan under the Maine State Retirement System to include any employee of the Department of Corrections who is employed in a correctional facility or whose duties involve contact with prisoners, probationers, parolees or juveniles.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-687) proposed to replace the bill and extend coverage of the 1998 Special Retirement Plan. Like the bill, the amendment proposed providing coverage under the special plan for Department of Corrections employees working inside correctional facilities other than the Maine State Prison, departmental employees working outside correctional facilities having contact with prisoners, parolees, probationers and juvenile offenders, and employees of the department supervising such employees. The amendment also proposed extending special plan coverage to Baxter State Park Authority rangers, the State Fire Marshal, fire marshal inspectors and fire marshal investigators. (Both of these changes were the result of proposals in other bills--LD 1747 for fire marshals and LD 1165 for BSPA rangers.) All of the changes provided in the amendment would begin January 1, 2000.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 493 extends eligibility for coverage by the 1998 Special Plan under the Maine State Retirement System to Department of Corrections employees working inside correctional facilities other than the Maine State Prison, departmental employees working outside correctional facilities having contact with prisoners, parolees, probationers and juvenile offenders, and employees of the department supervising such employees. Chapter 493 also extends special plan coverage to Baxter State Park Authority rangers, the State Fire Marshal, fire marshal inspectors and fire marshal investigators. All of the changes provided in the law begin January 1, 2000.

LD 1377 **Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor to Establish Standards for Providing Heat in Buildings** **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 1377 proposes to direct the Department of Labor to develop standards for employers to follow in providing heat in buildings occupied by employees.

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