

# 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.

the business after bankruptcy free and clear of liens and the contribution rate of the business was higher than the state average. Otherwise, a successor employer who takes over after bankruptcy obtains the payroll records and experience rating records of the predecessor employer.

**LD 1630**

**An Act to Fully Comply with the Requirements of the Older Workers Benefit Protection Act**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KILKELLY GOODWIN	ONTP	

LD 1630 proposed to require the Maine State Retirement System to contact members of the system who in 1992 were eligible but failed to exercise their option to be covered by the system's disability plan as amended to meet the requirement of the federal Older Workers Benefits Protection Act or to remain covered by the previous disability plan. The bill would have required the Maine State Retirement System to get a written response from each member who previously failed to exercise the option and report to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor on the results of its activities.

**LD 1648**

**An Act Restoring the Right to Sue to Workers Injured Due to Gross Negligence**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1648 proposed to allow an injured employee to sue the employer for damages if the injury was caused by the gross negligence or illegal act of the employer.

**LD 1659**

**Resolve, to Investigate State Purchasing of Goods and Services Produced under Conditions that Violate International Standards of Human Rights**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1659 proposed to direct the Bureau of General Services within the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to review its purchasing practices to identify goods and services produced under conditions that violate international human rights, labor or environmental standards.