

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
LABOR**

JULY 1999

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Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain, III

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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 1805**An Act to Ensure Prompt Payment of Unemployment Compensation Benefits to Displaced Workers****PUBLIC 376**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TREAT COLWELL	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-216 S-267 DOUGLASS

LD 1805 proposed to require the employer of a full-time employee who works less than full-time hours due to lack of work to give that employee a properly filled out unemployment compensation claim form.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-216) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to rewrite and simplify the requirement that employers give properly completed partial unemployment claim forms to full-time employees who are given no work or less than full-time work during a week due to a lack of work available.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-267) proposed to provide that partial unemployment claim forms for a week must be provided to eligible employees no later than the day that the pay for that week is available to employees.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 376 requires an employer to give an employee a properly filled out partial unemployment claim form if the employee is a full-time employee who does not work or works less than full-time hours due to lack of work. The form must be given to the employee no later than the day that the pay for that week is available to employees.

LD 1864**An Act Concerning the Political Use of Union Dues****CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 1864 proposes to prohibit an employer from withholding wages to be used for political purposes and to prohibit a labor organization from using dues or fees for political purposes unless the withholding and use are authorized by the employee.

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

LD 1891**An Act to Increase the Minimum Wage****VETO
SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE HATCH	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MAJ	S-280

LD 1891 proposed to increase the minimum wage to \$5.50 per hour, effective November 1, 1999. It also proposed that the state wage increase to an amount 35¢ above the federal minimum wage if the federal minimum is increased above the current \$5.15 per hour rate.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-280), the majority report of the committee, proposed to increase the minimum wage to \$5.65 on November 1, 1999 and \$6.15 on November 1, 2000. The amendment proposed that, if the federal minimum wage were higher than the level set by the State at any time, the federal minimum wage would become the State's minimum wage as well.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-281), the minority report of the committee, proposed to update the language of the minimum wage law and provide that the state minimum wage is the higher of the state and federal minimum wages. (not adopted)

LD 1897 An Act to Increase the Maximum Benefit Levels Provided for Injured Workers VETO SUSTAINED

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HATCH CATHCART	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-548

LD 1897 proposed to increase the maximum weekly benefit level under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 to the higher of \$600 or 166% of the state average weekly wage, as adjusted annually.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-548) proposed to change the maximum benefit level to the state average weekly wage beginning July 1, 2000.

LD 1908 An Act to Establish as an Employee Any Person Who Collects Signatures on Petitions for Direct Initiative or People's Veto Legislation for Any Person, Firm or Organization that Contracts, Subcontracts or Agrees to Collect the Signatures for Anything of Value CARRIED OVER

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

LD 1908 proposes to clarify that persons who collect signatures on citizen initiative petitions for wages, salaries or anything of value are employees under Maine labor laws, such as workers' compensation and unemployment compensation and their employers are subject to the requirements of those laws.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Secretary of State.

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