

# 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*

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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.

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<br>CATHCART | OTP-AM MAJ<br>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<br>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.