

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
120th Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Labor*

August 2001

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**120th Legislature
First Regular Session**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
August 2001**

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 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*
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... *Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote*
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... *Bill failed to get majority vote*
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT..... *Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote*
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 21, 2001**.

David E. Boulter, Director
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

LD 98

An Act to Increase the Limit on Earnings for Beneficiaries of Disability Retirement Benefits

**PUBLIC 443
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WHEELER E KILKELLY	OTP-AM	H-133

LD 98 proposed to increase from \$10,000 to \$15,000 the limit on compensation that may be earned by the beneficiary of a disability retirement benefit under the Maine State Retirement System without incurring a reduction in benefit during the following year.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-133) replaced the bill and proposed to raise from \$10,000 to \$20,000 the annual limit on earnings that a disability retiree under the Maine State Retirement System may earn without causing a deduction in the following year's benefits. The amendment also proposed to suspend under the applicable disability plan administered by the retirement system the permanent reduction in disability benefits due to a determination of increased capacity to earn based on review of a benefit recipient's actual earnings record. The proposed suspension would be retroactive for calendar years 1999 and 2000 and remain in effect until January 1, 2003. The temporary suspension would allow the retirement system and the Legislature to develop a permanent solution to disability benefit issues while alleviating the hardship imposed on recipients by current law. The amendment also added an emergency preamble, emergency clause and fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 443 increases from \$10,000 to \$20,000 the annual limit on earnings that a recipient of a disability retirement benefit under the Maine State Retirement System may earn without incurring a deduction from the following year's benefit payment. The \$10,000 limit was established and has not been updated since 1981. The law also suspends for one of the disability plans administered by the retirement system the permanent reduction in disability benefits due to a determination of increased capacity to earn based on a benefits recipient's actual earnings record. The suspension is retroactive for calendar years 1999 and 2000 and is effective until January 1, 2003. The temporary suspension will allow the retirement system and the Legislature to develop a permanent solution while alleviating the hardship imposed on recipients under the current law.

Public Law 2001, chapter 443 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 27, 2001.

LD 121

An Act Raising the Minimum Wage

ONTP

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

LD 121 proposed to raise the minimum wage to \$5.75 per hour starting January 1, 2002 and \$6.25 per hour starting January 1, 2003. It also proposed to increase the minimum wage for inflation every 3rd January and to send the bill to public referendum. See also LD 1247 and LD 1591.