

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
120th Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Banking and Insurance*

August 2001

Members:

Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III, Chair

Sen. I. Joel Abromson

Sen. Neria R. Douglass

Rep. Christopher P. O'Neil, Chair

Rep. Benjamin F. Dudley

Rep. Nancy B. Sullivan

Rep. Marilyn E. Canavan

Rep. Lisa T. Marrache

Rep. William J. Smith

Rep. Arthur F. Mayo III

Rep. Kevin J. Glynn

Rep. Florence T. Young

Rep. John M. Michael

Staff:

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Maine State Legislature
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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 Banking and Insurance

LD 154

An Act to Amend the Law Governing Unfair Claims Settlement Practices

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SMITH	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 154 proposed to amend the law governing unfair claims settlement practices in 2 ways. First, the bill removed the requirement that civil actions may be brought only against one's own insurer in order to allow suit against any insurer. Second, the bill removed the provision that exempted workers' compensation claims.

LD 158

An Act to Provide Insurance Plan Coverage for Small Employers

ONTP

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

LD 158 proposed to make employees of small employers with 50 or fewer employees eligible for group health plan coverage under the group plan offered to state employees. The bill would have required that the premium for coverage under the plan must be paid by the small employer, by a combination of employer and employee contribution or by the employee.

LD 163

An Act to Extend Workers' Compensation Twenty-four-hour Pilot Projects

PUBLIC 48

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAYO LAFOUNTAIN	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-41

LD 163 proposed to continue authorization for workers' compensation health benefits pilot projects for 4 additional years. The bill applied retroactively to January 1, 2001, the date on which the statute authorizing the pilot projects was repealed.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-41) was the majority report of the committee. It proposed to remove the emergency preamble and emergency clause and add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2001, chapter 48 continues authorization for workers' compensation health benefits pilot projects for 4 additional years until January 1, 2005. The law applies retroactively to January 1, 2001.