

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
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Joint Standing Committee on Labor

LD 297

Resolve, Authorizing a Study of the Governance and Administrative Structure of the Workers' Compensation System and Authorizing One-time Uses of the Workers' Compensation Board Reserve Account

**RESOLVE 49
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DOUGLASS	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-266

LD 297 proposed to increase the cap on the Workers' Compensation Board's assessment by \$700,000 to provide additional funding necessary to maintain the current level of services provided by the board.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-266) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to authorize the Workers' Compensation Board to use up to \$700,000 from its reserve account to fund expenses only in fiscal year 2001-2002. It also proposed to direct the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to administer a feasibility study of the governance and administrative structure of the State's workers' compensation system to determine if greater efficiencies may be gained in its operational structure and processes. The cost of the study, and of the committee formed to advise the Department, would be borne by the Workers' Compensation Board reserve account. Results of the study would be provided to the Legislature and the Workers' Compensation Board by December 15, 2001. The Joint Standing Committee on Labor would be authorized to report out any recommended legislation relating to the report to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2001, chapter 49 directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to administer a feasibility study of the governance and administrative structure of the State's workers' compensation system to determine if greater efficiencies may be gained in its operational structure and processes. The Resolve authorizes the department to enter into contracts for consulting services to assist in carrying out the study and provides for funding of up to \$125,000 from the Workers' Compensation Board reserve account. The department is directed to consult with an advisory committee composed of members of the Legislature, the Workers' Compensation Board, the Department of Labor, the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation and the Governor's office and to report its findings to the Legislature and the Workers' Compensation Board by December 15, 2001. The Joint Standing Committee on Labor may report out any recommended legislation relating to the report of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to the Second Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.

The Resolve also authorizes the Workers' Compensation Board to use up to \$700,000 from its reserve account to fund board expenses in fiscal year 2001-2002.

Resolve 2001, chapter 49 passed as an emergency measure effective June 8, 2001.