

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 757

An Act to Amend the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 as it Relates to Medical Payment Coverage

PUBLIC 235

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SMITH	OTP-AM A	H-173
MARTIN	OTP-AM B	
	ONTP C	

Under current law, agricultural and aquacultural employers are exempt from the provisions of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 if, among other things, the employers maintain medical payment coverage of \$1,000. This bill proposed to increase the required medical payment coverage to \$25,000.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-173), the majority report of the committee, proposed to set the minimum medical payment coverage at \$5,000 rather than \$25,000 as proposed in the bill.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-174), a minority report of the committee, proposed to set the minimum medical payment coverage at \$2,500 rather than \$25,000 as proposed in the bill. It also proposed to delete language that appears to require that the minimum liability coverage of \$100,000 per employee be provided in a single employer's liability policy. This change in language would allow an employer to meet the requirement for minimum liability coverage by use of an umbrella insurance policy that includes employer's liability coverage. This amendment was not adopted.

Enacted law summary

Under current law, employers of employees engaged in agriculture or aquaculture are exempt from the provisions of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 if, among other things, the employers maintain medical payment coverage of \$1,000. Public Law 2001, chapter 235 increases the required medical payment coverage to \$5,000.

LD 804

An Act to Transfer Health Insurance Eligibility to the Spouse of a Deceased Teacher

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAVIS P	ONTP	
CLARK		

LD 804 proposed to allow the surviving spouse of a retired teacher to participate in the group insurance plan and require the State to pay 30% of the share of the costs of the insurance for that surviving spouse. Current law requires the State to pay 30% of the cost of group health insurance for a retired teacher.

LD 728 is a related bill.