

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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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
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Joint Standing Committee on Labor

his or her own personnel file, and that provides civil remedies and reimbursement for attorney fees for failure to comply.

LD 1235 **An Act to Speed Up the Decision Process on Workers' Compensation Claims** **ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| BOUCHER | OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN | |

LD 1235 proposed to impose 7-day deadlines on several steps of the workers' compensation dispute resolution process and to require the Workers' Compensation Board to maintain a staffed telephone number to provide assistance to employees filing claims.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-488) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to prohibit an employer from requiring an injured employee to undergo more than one 2nd opinion examination unless the additional examination is approved by the employee or a hearing officer. It proposed to provide that the hearing officer may approve the additional examination only if it is needed to provide information on an issue that was not addressed in the first examination and that could not have been addressed in that examination.

LD 1243 **An Act to Reform Maine's Prevailing Wage Law** **ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MATTHEWS EDMONDS | ONTP | |

LD 1243 was a concept draft that proposed to clarify the application and enforcement of laws concerning the wage and benefits required to be paid to workers on public construction jobs, also known as the "prevailing wage."

LD 1244 **An Act to Allow Maine Technical College System Faculty and Administrative Units to Participate in a Defined Contribution Plan** **ONTP**

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

LD 1244 proposed to reopen for approximately 1 year the timeframe for certain employees of the Maine Technical College System to exercise the option to participate in a defined contribution retirement plan in lieu of membership in the Maine State Retirement System under a law passed in 1998.