

# 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](http://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 1255

**An Act to Expand Retirement Benefits for State Employees and Teachers Returning to Service**

PUBLIC 442

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MATTHEWS	OTP-AM	H-437 H-483 BUNKER

LD 1255 proposed to repeal the current law that establishes a cap on the earnings of retired members of the Maine State Retirement System who return to work as state employees or teachers. The bill proposed to authorize those retirees to return to covered employment and continue to receive full retirement benefits.

See also similar LDs 442, 1314 and 1102.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-437)** replaced the bill. It proposed to repeal the current law that provides for reduction in benefits of retirees under the Maine State Retirement System who return to employment covered by the retirement system if they exceed earning limitations. Under the amendment retirees could return to covered employment and keep both their full pension and their earnings. The amendment also proposed to establish the eligibility of retirees who return to such employment for certain benefits, including membership in the retirement system, participation in other retirement plans of the employer and eligibility for the state employee health insurance program. It also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

**House Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment " " (H-483)** proposed to repeal an unnecessary provision of law and an obsolete provision of law.

### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 2001, chapter 442 repeals the current law that provides for reduction in benefits of retirees under the Maine State Retirement System who return to employment covered by the retirement system if they exceed earning limitations. Under chapter 442, retirees may return to covered employment and keep both their full pension and their earnings. The law also establishes the status of retirees who return to covered employment for certain benefits, including membership in the retirement system, participation in other retirement plans of the employer and eligibility for the state employee health insurance program.

**LD 1257**

**An Act to Change the Membership of the Workers' Compensation Board**

ONTP

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

LD 1257 proposed to change the composition of the Workers' Compensation Board. It proposed to create a 3-member board, with one member representing management and one representing labor, appointed by the Governor, with the chair selected by agreement of the 2 appointed members.