

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 1537

An Act to Increase Access to Unemployment Compensation for School Bus Drivers

ONTP

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

LD 1537 proposed to repeal the provision in unemployment compensation law that makes school bus drivers employed by educational institutions or education service agencies ineligible for unemployment benefits when they are laid off between 2 successive academic years.

LD 1541

An Act to Fund the Workers' Compensation Advocate Program

ONTP

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

LD 1541 proposed to allocate funds for an additional 10 positions to the Workers' Compensation Board to provide more resources for the worker advocate program. It also proposed to increase the cap on the annual assessment for the Workers' Compensation Board Administrative Fund from \$6.735 million to \$7.735 million. The bill also proposed to specify that advocates must be hired as necessary to maintain an active caseload of no more than 100 cases per advocate.

LD 1566

An Act to Improve Pension Benefits for Employees in the Department of Environmental Protection

PUBLIC 409

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUPLESSIE	OTP-AM MAJ	H-619
EDMONDS	ONTP MIN	

LD 1566 proposed to open membership in the 1998 Special Retirement Plan to emergency and hazardous response workers at DEP who participate in a standby work rotation. The 1998 Special Plan offers full retirement benefits at age 55 or early retirement with a benefit reduction after 25 years of service. The bill also proposed to help fund the cost of adding oil and hazardous waste materials workers to the 1998 special plan by allocating 0.25¢ per barrel of the 3¢ per barrel of oil received by the Maine Coastal and Inland Service Oil Clean-up fund to the Maine State Retirement System.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-619) proposed to make the following changes in the bill:

1. To clarify which employees are covered by provisions of the bill;
2. To retroactively extend benefits for covered employees under the 1998 special retirement plan to the date of hire for all the employees' service in covered positions;