

# 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 1584**

**An Act to Change the Retirement Eligibility Requirement for Game Wardens and Marine Patrol Officers**

**DIED ON  
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MICHAUD MH COLWELL	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	S-257

LD 1584 proposed to establish a new special retirement plan for fish and wildlife game wardens that provides full retirement benefits after 25 years of service with no minimum retirement age requirement. The special plan would apply to all newly hired game wardens and would be retroactive for current wardens. The bill also proposed to remove game wardens from the 1998 Special Retirement Plan.

See similar bills, LDs 1332, 1436 and 1468.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-257)** was the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. It proposed to add coverage for the category of marine patrol officers under the special retirement provisions for game wardens contained in the bill. Under the amendment, game wardens and marine patrol officers would be removed from the 1998 Special Plan and provided with a retirement plan that offers full retirement benefits after 25 years of service with no minimum retirement age requirement. The new plan would apply to newly hired game wardens and marine patrol officers and would be retroactive for current game wardens and marine patrol officers hired after 1984. The amendment also proposed to make technical corrections in the bill and to provide for full actuarial funding of the bill from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund. Finally, the amendment proposed to add an emergency preamble and clause and effective date and a fiscal note to the bill.

**Committee Amendment "B" (S-258)** which was not adopted was the minority report of the committee. It proposed to retain the special retirement plan for Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife game wardens and Department of Marine Resources marine patrol officers established prospectively in 1998 and extend coverage under the special plan retroactively to date of hire for currently employed game wardens who were hired on or after September 1, 1984. Employees covered by the 1998 special plan would be able to retire with full benefits at age 55 if they have 10 years of service or to retire before age 55 with a benefit reduction if they have at least 25 years of service. Game wardens or marine patrol officers hired before September 1, 1984 would not be affected by this amendment; they may retire at any age after 20 years of service. The amendment also proposed to provide for return of contributions plus interest to game wardens and marine patrol officers who previously participated in an option to self-fund a special retirement benefit similar to that provided by this amendment. The amendment also proposed to add an appropriation section, an allocation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

The bill as amended by the majority committee amendment died on the Appropriations Table but was included in the Part II Budget, Public Law 2001, chapter 439, Part GGGG.