

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 1585

**An Act to Restore a Workers' Compensation Hearing Officer
Position in Aroostook County**

P & S 24

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN SMITH	OTP	S-150

LD 1585 proposed to require the Workers' Compensation Board to permanently assign a full-time administrative hearing officer to the Caribou office no later than 30 days after the effective date of the bill and to implement the assignment within existing budgeted resources.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-150) proposed to remove the emergency preamble and the emergency clause from the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 2001, chapter 24 requires the Workers' Compensation Board to permanently assign a full-time administrative hearing officer to the Caribou office no later than 30 days after the effective date of the bill and to implement this assignment within existing budgeted resources.

LD 1591

An Act to Raise the Minimum Wage

PUBLIC 297

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MICHAUD MH SAXL	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	S-63

LD 1591 proposed to raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$5.65 per hour starting January 1, 2002 and \$6.15 per hour starting January 1, 2003. It proposed to provide an income tax credit for an employer who employs fewer than 15 employees equal to the lesser of 20% of health benefits paid under a health benefit plan or \$125 per employee with health benefits coverage.

It also proposed to increase the earned income credit to 10% of the federal earned income credit for the tax year that begins on January 1, 2002 and 15% of the federal earned income credit for tax years that begin on or after January 1, 2003.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-63) proposed to increase the state minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$5.75 per hour beginning January 1, 2002 and to \$6.25 per hour beginning January 1, 2003. The amendment also proposed to retain language in current law providing that the state minimum wage increases to conform to any increases in the federal minimum wage, up to a maximum of \$1.00 per hour above the specified state minimum. It proposed to delete the section of the bill providing a tax credit for employers who provide health benefits and the section that increased the earned income credit.

Enacted law summary