

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
120th Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Labor*

May 2002

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Maine State Legislature
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120th Legislature
Second Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 2002

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 arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PASSED</i>	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 25, 2002.

Patrick T. Norton, Interim Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

LD 2206

An Act to Assist the Displaced Workers at Hathaway Shirt Company

ONTP

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

LD 2206 proposed to provide that an employer that has owned and operated a covered establishment for less than 2 years prior to the termination or relocation owes severance pay if the employer, its predecessors or the covered establishment received significant public benefits in the 5 years before the termination or relocation. As an alternative to paying severance pay, the employer would be permitted to pay over to the Department of Labor the value of all significant public benefits provided in the past 5 years. The department would use those funds to make severance payments to employees of the covered establishment and to repay the municipality or other public entity that provided the significant public benefit.

LD 2217

Resolve, to Fund the Operations of the Workers' Compensation Board for Fiscal Year 2002-03

RESOLVE 126

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NUTTING J BUNKER		

LD 2217 proposed to authorize the Workers' Compensation Board to use up to \$1,341,750 from its reserve account to fund operations of the Board for fiscal year 2002-03.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 2001, chapter 126 authorizes the Workers' Compensation Board to use up to \$1,341,750 from its reserve account in fiscal year 2002-2003 to fund operational needs, technological improvements, contracted staff for the worker advocate program, and collective bargaining costs.

LD 2218

An Act to Improve the Responsiveness of the Unemployment Insurance Program

UNSIGNED

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BUNKER EDMONDS		

LD 2218 proposed to provide that, between June 1, 2003 and May 31, 2006, a person is not ineligible for unemployment benefits solely because the person is not available for full-time work, as long as the person is available to work at least part-time. The bill proposed that the Department of Labor provisionally adopt rules to implement the part-time standard and submit them to the Labor Committee by February 1, 2003. Pursuant to the federal Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002, federal funds could be utilized to pay the costs of this provision.