

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Labor*

July 2003

Members:

*Sen. Betheda G. Edmonds, Chair
Sen. Steven S. Stanley
Sen. Kenneth Blais*

*Rep. William J. Smith, Chair
Rep. Deborah J. Hutton
Rep. Paul R. Hatch
Rep. John L. Patrick
Rep. Thomas R. Watson
Rep. Russell P. Treadwell
Rep. Philip Cressey, Jr.
Rep. Robert W. Nutting
Rep. Theodore H. Heidrich
Rep. Troy D. Jackson*

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Maine State Legislature



Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i>	<i>Bills carried over to the 2nd Regular Session</i>
<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>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 that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

David C. Elliott, Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

current law, an unemployed individual is eligible to receive unemployment benefits only if the individual is available for full-time work.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-482) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed the specific circumstances under which a person who is unavailable for full-time work can continue to be eligible for unemployment benefits. A person who has a history of part-time work would not be disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits as long as that person continues to be available to work for a number of hours comparable to the number worked during part-time weeks in the base period. A person who is unavailable to work full-time would not be disqualified from receiving benefits if the person's lack of availability is the result of illness or disability of an immediate family member or the lack of availability is necessary for the safety or protection of the individual or a member of the individual's immediate family.

House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-528) proposed to limit the application of the provision allowing unemployment benefits for persons seeking part-time work to persons who file applications for benefits before October 1, 2005.

Enacted Law Summary

Current law requires that, in order to be eligible to receive unemployment compensation benefits, a person must be able, available for and actively seeking full-time work. Public Law 2003, chapter 458 provides that a person who is able, available and seeking only part-time work is not disqualified from receiving benefits if (1) the person had a history of part-time work and continues to seek work for a comparable number of hours per week; or (2) the person can only work part-time because of a family member's illness or disability or because of the safety of the person or the person's family member. This provision allowing a person to limit his or her work search to part-time work does not apply to applications for unemployment benefits filed on or after October 1, 2005.

LD 284

An Act To Require Use of United States Citizens for Work with the Bureau of Parks and Lands

**VETO
SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON	OTP-AM MAJ	H-402
MARTIN	ONTP MIN	

LD 284 proposed to prohibit the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands from contracting for timber harvesting on the public reserved and nonreserved lands with anyone who is not a United States citizen.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-402) proposed to clarify the application of the United States citizenship requirement and to add hauling to the list of activities that may be performed only by United State citizens. It proposed to clarify that the citizenship requirement does not apply to corporations and other legal entities, but it does prohibit those entities from employing persons who are not United States citizens to cut, skid or haul timber on or from public reserved lands or nonreserved public lands under any contract or permit to cut timber on those lands.