

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.
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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

LD 809 **An Act To Provide Health Insurance Contributions to All Retired Teachers** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'BRIEN J		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 809 proposed to require the State to reimburse the accident and sickness or health insurance coverage costs of retired teachers who are not eligible to participate in the group accident and sickness or health insurance plan for retired teachers at the same rate as the State contributes to accident and sickness or health insurance coverage of retired teachers under the group plan.

LD 823 **An Act To Distribute Costs for the Funding of Pensions and Health Insurance for Retired Teachers** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MILLS P		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 823 was a concept draft that proposed to require local school administrative units to pay the employer portion of the costs of teacher retirement and teacher retiree health insurance and to provide for reimbursement to local units through the education funding formula. In addition to paying the current cost for health insurance for retirees, the units would contribute an actuarially determined amount into a reserve fund to pay the cost of future health insurance benefits for members who are not yet retired.

LD 831 **An Act Pertaining to Former Members of the Maine State Retirement System** **PUBLIC 273**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MCLAUGHLIN		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-322
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LD 831 proposed to allow a municipality or other participating local district that has withdrawn from the Maine State Retirement System to elect to permit participants to purchase military service credits, even if the provision allowing such purchases were in effect prior to the withdrawal and could have been adopted by the district prior to withdrawing.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-322) proposed to replace the bill and to broaden its scope. It proposed to allow a participating local district to adopt any provision of the Maine State Retirement System laws after the local district withdraws from the retirement system, regardless of whether the provision was enacted before or after the local district's withdrawal.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 273 allows a municipality or other participating local district that has withdrawn from the Maine State Retirement System to elect to adopt any provision of the Maine State Retirement System laws after the local district withdraws from the retirement system, regardless of whether the provision was enacted before or

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after the local district's withdrawal. Those changes would apply only to persons who remained in the retirement system plan at the time the local district withdrew from the retirement system.

LD 834 **An Act To Protect the Solvency of Workers' Compensation Trust Funds** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HATCH PR HATCH PH	ONTP	

LD 834 proposed to require employers who self-insure for workers' compensation to report to the Superintendent of Insurance within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation transfers out of their trust funds, except transfers to pay benefits under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992.

LD 880 **An Act To Eliminate the Social Security Offset for Unemployment Benefits** **CARRIED OVER**

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

LD 880 proposes to eliminate the pension offset against unemployment benefits for persons who receive Social Security or other pensions, provided the person contributed at least 50% of the contributions to that pension.

LD 880 was reported out of committee on a divided report, but was re-referred to committee and carried over.

LD 881 **An Act To Allow the Buyback of Active Duty Military Time for Maine State Retirement System Credit** **ONTP**

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

LD 881 proposed to allow members of the MSRS with active military service to buy back service credit for that service at a subsidized rate, regardless of whether the military service occurred during a federally-recognized period of conflict. Current law requires a member whose military service was not during a federally-recognized period of conflict to pay the full actuarial cost of the credit.