

# 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](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:

<i>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i> .....	<i>Bills carried over to the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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*

### ***Enacted Law Summary***

Public Law 2003, chapter 214 allows a retired state employee who is eligible for retiree health insurance to decline coverage for some period of time and then reenroll in the program at a later date without penalty. A person may elect to decline health insurance coverage at the time of retirement and retain the option to reenroll pursuant to the provisions of this new law, or a person may elect to withdraw from health coverage at any time after retirement, provided the person had elected at the time of retirement to be covered by the state health insurance plan. It also clarifies the conditions under which the spouse or dependent of a retiree who reenrolls may obtain coverage under the health insurance plan.

### **LD 1286**

#### **An Act Regarding the Operation of Vending Services in Public Buildings**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1286 proposed to remove the provision that gives the Department of Labor, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired the first option for placing vending machines operated by the division in a public building or property if a vending facility operated by a blind person is not warranted at that location.

### **LD 1315**

#### **An Act To Change the Retirement Eligibility Qualifications for Certain Military Firefighters and Police Officers**

**ONTP**

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

LD 1315 proposed to allow certain military firefighters and police officers employed at the Bangor International Airport to elect to participate in the 1998 Special Plan.

### **LD 1318**

#### **An Act To Provide Collective Bargaining Rights to Certain Forest Products Workers** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SMITH W		
MARTIN		

LD 1318 proposes to allow individual forest products harvesters and haulers to join together to bargain with forest landowners over the prices and other terms of contracts for harvesting and hauling trees in Maine forests. The bill proposes to create a Forest Products Bargaining Board to implement the law, set forth a procedure for mediation and arbitration if the parties can not come to agreement on their own and list prohibited unfair practices.