

State Of Maine 121st Legislature

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

July 2003

<u>Members</u>: 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

<u>Staff</u>: Deborah C. Friedman, Senior Analyst

Office of Policy and Legal Analysis 13 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333 (207) 287-1670

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, <u>History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents</u>, 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 PURSUANT TO HP 1212	Bills carried over to the 2 nd Regular Session
CON RES XXX	
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCEOne	e 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
	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	
ONTP	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
OTP-ND	Committee report (hight To Pass In New Draft
P&S XXX	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law Joint Order passed in both bodies
PASSED	Joint Order passed in both bodies
PUBLIC XXX	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX	Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED	Bill held by Governor
	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

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

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 1286An Act Regarding the Operation of Vending Services in Public
Buildings

ONTP

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

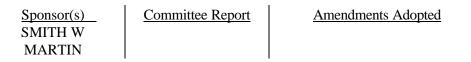
LD 1286 proposed to remove the provision that gives the Department of Labor, Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired the first option for placing vending machines operated by the division in a public building or property if a vending facility operated by a blind person is not warranted at that location.

LD 1315 An Act To Change the Retirement Eligibility Qualifications for ONTP Certain Military Firefighters and Police Officers

Sponsor(s)	Committee Report	Amendments Adopted
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 CARRIED OVER Products Workers



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.