

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine  
121st Legislature*

*First Regular Session*

*Bill Summaries*

*Joint Standing Committee  
on  
Labor*

*July 2003*

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Sen. Steven S. Stanley  
Sen. Kenneth Blais*

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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*

meeting additional standards including limits on driving time and requirements for insurance; and (3) housing near the work site to any forestry worker whose permanent residence is more than 50 miles from the work site and who wishes to live in such housing.

It proposes to prohibit the employer or any other person from selling goods or services to workers in employer-provided housing for an amount that constitutes an unjust or unreasonable profit. The bill proposes to require the employer to ensure that workers residing in employer-provided housing have the right to receive visitors and that visitors have access to roadways used to reach the housing. The bill proposes to define "employer" to ensure that all persons and entities that directly benefit from the labor performed by forestry workers are simultaneously and jointly responsible for the decent treatment of workers.

The bill proposes to prohibit any person from discriminating or retaliating against any person who exercises the rights or protections provided by the new law or who files a complaint or participates in a proceeding under the law. Persons who violate the law would be subject to civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per violation, enforceable by the Attorney General. That amount would increase to \$50,000 for certain egregious violations that result in a worker's bodily injury or death. The bill also proposes to provide a private right of action for aggrieved persons and declare void any attempt to waive or modify the workers' rights under the law.

### **LD 1435**

#### **An Act To Clarify Immunity and Workers' Compensation for Search and Rescue Volunteers**

**PUBLIC 489**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DUPLESSIE BRYANT	OTP-AM	H-452 S-310 CATHCART

LD 1435 proposed to include under the definition of state "employee" for purposes of workers' compensation law and the Maine Tort Claims Act a person, whether paid or unpaid, who performs a search and rescue activity upon request of a state, county or local government.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-452)** proposed that only those individuals certified by the Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency as qualified search and rescue workers are considered employees of the State for purposes of workers' compensation coverage when they are engaged in search and rescue activity at the request of a state, county or local government entity.

**Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-310)** proposed to change the source of funding for workers' compensation coverage from the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

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

Public Law 2003, chapter 489 provides safeguards for persons who volunteer to perform search and rescue activity at the request of a state, county or local government. It provides immunity from lawsuits for injury or damage while the person is conducting search and rescue by including those persons as "employees" under the Maine Tort Claims Act. It also includes those persons as employees of the state for workers' compensation purposes, but only if the person is certified by the Maine Emergency Management Agency as a qualified search and rescue worker.