

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

Second Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Labor*

July 2006

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Sen. Philip L. Bartlett, II
Sen. Lois A. Snowe-Mello*

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Maine State Legislature



Office of Policy and Legal Analysis Office of Fiscal and Program Review

122nd Maine Legislature Second 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 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/billsumm.htm).

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:

CON RES XXX.....	Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE.....	Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES.....	House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE.....	One 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
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT.....	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.....	Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP.....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP-ND.....	Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PASSED.....	Joint Order passed in both bodies
PUBLIC XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX.....	Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED (Pocket Veto).....	Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED.....	Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 23, 2006.

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

LD 758

An Act To Increase Retired Teachers' Health Insurance Benefits

**DIED ON
ADJOURNMENT**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GLYNN		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-410
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LD 758 proposed to increase the State's contribution for health insurance for retired educators from 40% to 100%, phased in over 3 years.

Committee Amendment “A” (H-410) proposed to phase in the increase to the State's contribution for health insurance for retired educators over 11 years and to add an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

See also Public Law 2005, chapter 12, part X and Public Law 2005, chapter 457, part TT, which increase the state’s contribution for health insurance for retired educators from 40% to 45% as of January 1, 2006.

LD 1021

An Act To Implement Task Force Recommendations Relating to Parity and Portability of Benefits for Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters

PUBLIC 636

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
		OTP-AM MAJ		H-1007
		OTP-AM MIN		S-660 MARTIN
		ONTP MIN		

LD 1021 proposed to implement the unanimous recommendations of the Task Force to Study Parity and Portability of Retirement Benefits for State Law Enforcement Officers, Municipal and County Law Enforcement Officers and Firefighters.

Part A proposed to create a state subsidy for the cost of retiree health insurance for municipal and county law enforcement officers and firefighters who retire from certain Maine State Retirement System retirement plans. To pay for the subsidy, the bill proposed to create a dedicated account funded from 2 sources: a 0.50% premium tax on certain types of property and casualty insurance policies, including homeowners insurance and commercial and personal car insurance, and a contribution of 1.5% of compensation from active municipal and county law enforcement officers and firefighters who participate in certain retirement plans and would be likely to be eligible for the subsidy upon retirement. Officers and firefighters would be eligible for the subsidy only if they have retired from a Maine State Retirement System retirement plan that provides for retirement after 25 years of service, with a benefit of at least 50% of average final compensation and a cost-of-living adjustment, or a better Maine State Retirement System retirement plan. The bill proposed to require the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to report on revenue and funding of the subsidy to the Legislature in 2011, and to require the Bureau of Insurance in the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to submit a report to the Second Regular Session of the 122nd Legislature setting forth options for collecting contributions toward the cost of the retiree health insurance from businesses that do not purchase insurance for the types of property and casualty risks described in the bill.