

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
123RD LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills and adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature coming from the

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR

July 2007

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STAFF:

JOHN T. MITCHELL, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

*Representative James M. Hamper replaced Representative Philip A. Cressey, Jr. on the Labor Committee

STATE OF MAINE

123RD LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS



This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* summarizes all bills and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 123rd Maine Legislature, which was in session from December 6, 2006 to June 21, 2007.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee, and within each committee by LD number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. The appendices include a summary of relevant session statistics, an index of all bills by LD number and an index of enacted laws by law type and chapter number.

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 (or Accepted ONTP report)..... | 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..... | Bill held by Governor |
| VETO SUSTAINED..... | Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto |

Please note that the effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session is **September 20, 2007**. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure is specified in the enacted law summary for those bills.

Joint Standing Committee on Labor

LD 5

An Act To Provide Equal Treatment for All Veterans in the Laws Governing the Maine State Retirement System

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| CAMPBELL | ONTP | |

This bill allows members of the Maine State Retirement System with at least 5 years of creditable service who served in the Armed Forces of the United States and received an honorable discharge to purchase service credit for the time spent in the armed forces at a subsidized cost, whether or not the military time was during a federally recognized period of conflict or the member was awarded a campaign or expeditionary medal.

LD 41

An Act Regarding Final Agency Action Subject to Appeal Pursuant to the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992

PUBLIC 78

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| | OTP | |

This bill clarifies that decisions issued by the Workers' Compensation Board pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A, section 360 are final agency action subject to appeal to the Superior Court whether or not a penalty is imposed.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2007, Chapter 78 clarifies that decisions issued by the Workers' Compensation Board pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A, section 360 are final agency action subject to appeal to the Superior Court whether or not a penalty is imposed.

LD 75

An Act To Prohibit Credit Checks for Purposes of Employment

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BARSTOW BARTLETT | ONTP | |

This bill prohibits an employer, including the State, from running a credit check on a prospective or current employee as a condition of hiring, appointment or employment.

LD 105

An Act To Promote Hiring of Seasonal Workers

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MCKANE SNOWE-MELLO | ONTP | |

This bill changes the amount of time an employer may hire an employee without being charged for unemployment benefits from 5 weeks to 10 weeks. It also changes the most recent employment period that defines the chargeable employer from 5 consecutive weeks to 10 consecutive weeks.