

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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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 1416

An Act To Create a Workers' Compensation Board Appeals Process

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

MARTIN

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill provides for the appeal of decisions of hearing officers on workers' compensation claims to the Workers' Compensation Board, together with procedures.

LD 1435

An Act To Adopt a Regional Cost Differential for State Salaries, School Funding and Contracted Services

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

MILLS P

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. This bill proposes to adopt a cost-of-living differential based on housing cost variations among the State's 31 labor market areas, as determined by the federal Department of Labor using commuting patterns from the 2000 U.S. Census. Under this bill, this regional adjustment would then be applied to the essential programs and services school funding formula, state employee salary negotiations and contracts for services by the Department of Health and Human Services and other state agencies.

LD 1436

Resolve, To Reduce the Level of Unfunded Liability for Health Benefits Owed to Retired State Employees

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

MILLS P

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill directs the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services and the Executive Director of the Maine State Retirement System to review the amount currently owed to fund health insurance premiums for retired teachers and state employees, and develop a proposal to redefine such benefits for state employees and teachers so as to reduce the unfunded liability for retirees by 20% of its present assessed value. The commissioner and the executive director are directed to submit the proposal, together with any necessary implementing legislation, to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor no later than December 1, 2007.

LD 1438

An Act To Reverse the Effects of the Grant Case on Workers' Compensation BY REQUEST

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

MILLS P

Committee Report

ONTP

Amendments Adopted

This bill allows an employer a setoff of the amount of earnings paid to an employee after the filing of a petition for discontinuance or reduction of benefits against the weekly benefits that otherwise would have to be paid during the period following the filing of the certificate or petition.