

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 1603

An Act To Make Actuarially Fair Adjustments in Retirement Benefits for Older Employees

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WOODBURY	ONTP	

Sections 1 through 5 of the bill replace the current retirement system for state employees, which provides for normal retirement benefits beginning at age 60 or 62, with a system that indexes the age of eligibility to the number of years of remaining life expectancy. The reform is calibrated to retain the identical life expectancy in retirement as is projected for individuals retiring this year. For those currently eligible for retirement benefits at age 60, the indexed system would provide normal benefits at the age when there are 22 years and 2 months of remaining life expectancy. For those currently eligible for retirement benefits at age 62, the indexed system would provide normal benefits at the age when there are 20 years and 7 months of remaining life expectancy. These ages of eligibility would be revised annually, based on life expectancy statistics maintained by the National Center for Health Statistics. Section 6 of the bill provides for a 6% increase in the retirement benefit amount for each year that an employee works after the normal retirement age. This adjustment prevents older workers from losing the actuarial value of their accumulated benefits if they continue to work beyond the normal retirement age.

LD 1604 An Act To End the Automatic Deduction of Union Dues from the Paychecks of Nonunion Members

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LANSLEY	ONTP	

This bill specifies that public employees, including state and legislative employees, university, academy and community college employees, judicial employees and agricultural employees, may not be required by an employer or other person to join a union, labor organization or bargaining agent unit and may not be required to pay union dues or fees of any type.

LD 1616 An Act To Allow Temporary State Workers To Contribute to Social Security

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NASS R	ONTP	

This bill makes membership in the Maine State Retirement System optional for temporary state employees, including temporary employees of the Maine Turnpike Authority, and requires the State to enter into agreements with the Federal Security Administrator to extend social security benefits to them as an alternative.

LD 1653 An Act To Prevent Real Minimum Wages from Falling

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HINCK	ONTP	

This bill provides for the state minimum hourly wage to be adjusted for inflation beginning January 1, 2008 and annually thereafter. The bill requires the Department of Labor to calculate the inflation-adjusted minimum hourly