

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
124TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed during
the First Regular Session of the 124th Maine Legislature coming from the

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR

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STAFF:

CAROLYN RUSSO, LEGISLATIVE ANALYST
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
13 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670

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STATE OF MAINE

124TH 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 124th Maine Legislature.

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:

CARRIED OVER.....	Carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
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; bill died
ONTP (or Accepted ONTP report).....	Ought Not To Pass report accepted; bill died
P&S XXX.....	Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
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

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature is September 12, 2009. 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 564

Resolve, To Establish a Working Group of Stakeholders To Review the Current and Future Needs of Blind and Visually Impaired Individuals and To Establish Long-term Solutions To Fund Those Needs

RESOLVE 39

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DRISCOLL JACKSON	OTP-AM	H-122

This bill decreases the ratio of visually impaired and blind individuals to vision rehabilitation therapists to more appropriate levels and improves the effectiveness of vision rehabilitation services for the increasing numbers of adults with vision loss and expanded core curriculum services for youth in transition by funding one full-time and 2 half-time Vision Rehabilitation Therapist positions and one full-time Personal Adjustment Counselor position. The bill also provides funding for a vision rehabilitation program developer to design and implement a vision rehabilitation system. The bill increases funding for the Maine Audio Information and Reading Service operated by The Iris Network in order to support expansion to a 24 hours per day, 7 days per week broadcast. Finally, the bill provides funding to establish training opportunities, including internships, scholarships and fellowships, designed to recruit professionals to provide vision rehabilitation therapy and allied services throughout the State.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-122)

This amendment replaces the bill with a resolve that authorizes the establishment of a working group funded within existing resources of the Department of Labor to study the current and future needs of blind and visually impaired individuals, determine the costs of those needs and design a solution to meet those needs. The group shall report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 31, 2010.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2009, chapter 39 authorizes the establishment of a working group funded within existing resources of the Department of Labor to study the current and future needs of blind and visually impaired individuals, determine the costs of those needs and design a solution to meet those needs. The group shall report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 31, 2010.

LD 578

An Act Regarding Repayment of Subrogation or Lien Claims in Workers' Compensation Actions

ONTP

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

This bill amends the laws governing workers' compensation to provide for the reduction of any lien or subrogation interest when recovery from a 3rd party is so limited that repayment of the lien or subrogation interest would constitute a hardship on the employee.