

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS



Disposition of bills and summaries of all laws enacted or finally passed

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND HOUSING

December 2021

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HOUSING

LD 469 An Act To Ensure Safety across Maine's Construction Industry

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 465 requires a contractor or subcontractor with a public works contract with the State of \$50,000 or more to certify all craft workers who will be on the construction site have taken a safety training program that uses a curriculum approved by the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration and that is at least 10 hours in duration.

It also requires a contractor or subcontractor to complete and submit monthly to the public authority that let the contract a signed statement of compliance that each craft worker has completed 10 hours of a safety program. The contractor or subcontractor is required to display at the job site an affidavit showing compliance. It also specifies that a contractor or subcontractor who willfully and knowingly violates the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 1317 is subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$250.

It allows the Department of Labor to adopt rules to implement this law.

LD 494 An Act To Change the Compensation Structure of the Maine Labor Relations Board and the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 421 adjusts the compensation structure for members of the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation and the Maine Labor Relations Board. For the State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation, the law changes the per diem compensation for members of the board to provide that, when meeting to deliberate or vote with respect to a matter before the board, members receive \$150 a day per meeting for their services for the time actually employed in the discharge of their official duties and, for all other purposes, members receive \$300 a day for their services for the time actually employed in the discharge of their official duties. For the Maine Labor Relations Board, the law provides the board's executive director the discretion to provide the members' per diem compensation and related costs from the board's General Fund appropriation, rather than requiring the parties to a case to share the costs.

LD 509 An Act To Protect Teachers from a Decrease in Retirement Benefits Arising from the COVID-19 Pandemic

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 225 allows a teacher nearing retirement who experiences a reduction in income from the elimination of an extracurricular or cocurricular position due to circumstances

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related to COVID-19, to purchase service credit in the state retirement system for the income lost from the extracurricular or cocurricular position. The opportunity to purchase service credit is limited to teachers who are in their last three years of service and who previously earned income from an extracurricular or cocurricular position that is eliminated or otherwise unavailable during the period from January 1, 2020 to July 1, 2021. The law also clarifies that the lost income is included in the teacher's calculation of average final compensation.

Public Law 2021, chapter 225 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 16, 2021.

LD 594 Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor To Submit to the United States Secretary of Labor a Plan for a Self-employment Assistance Program

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 20 directs the Department of Labor to submit to the United States Secretary of Labor and the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing a plan to reinstate the self-employment assistance program pursuant to Public Law 1993, chapter 710 and the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 1197. The Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing is authorized to submit a bill regarding the program to the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

LD 609 Resolve, To Establish a Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 59 establishes the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions, which is a 15-member commission directed to review data on housing shortages in the State for low-income and middle-income households, state laws that affect the local regulation of housing and efforts in other states and municipalities to address housing shortages; to consider measures that would encourage increased housing options in the State; and to review and consider the historical role of race and racism in zoning policies and the best measures to ensure that state and municipal zoning laws do not serve as barriers to racial equality. The commission must, no later than November 3, 2021, submit a report, including suggested legislation, for presentation to the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

Resolve 2021, chapter 59 was finally passed as an emergency measure effective June 15, 2021.