

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND HOUSING**

July 2022

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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HOUSING

LD 449 An Act To Strengthen the Ability of Public Employers and Teachers' Unions To Negotiate

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Current law provides that the obligation of a public employer and a bargaining agent to bargain collectively includes their mutual obligation to meet within 10 days after receipt of written notice from the other party requesting a meeting for collective bargaining purposes, as long as the parties have not otherwise agreed in a prior written contract.

Public Law 2021, chapter 752 removes the exception to meet as long as the parties have not otherwise agreed in a prior written contract only for public employers that are school districts and the bargaining agents for teachers within those districts.

The law also provides funding to avoid a potential unfunded state mandate and requires the Department of Education to develop a process to reimburse school districts affected by the requirement to bargain for 90% of those school districts' legal and other costs incurred as a result of the requirement to bargain.

LD 460 Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor To Convene a Stakeholder Group To Examine Workforce Development Issues in the Hospitality and Food and Beverage Industries

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Resolve 2021, chapter 165 directs the Department of Labor to convene a stakeholder group to examine workforce development issues in the hospitality industry and the food and beverage industry. The stakeholder group must submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters no later than January 1, 2023. The committee may report out a bill to the 131st Legislature in 2023 related to these matters.

LD 575 An Act To Establish a Conditional Presumption of Compensability for Certain Employees in Cases of Impairment from Hypertension or Heart Disease

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 730 establishes a rebuttable presumption under the workers' compensation laws that an employee of the State whose regular or incidental duties require the care, supervision or custody of a person confined in a prison or state correctional facility pursuant to an order of a court or as a result of an arrest and who contracts heart disease or hypertension has contracted the heart disease or hypertension in the course of employment and as a result of that employment, that sufficient notice of the heart disease or hypertension has been given and that the heart disease or hypertension was not occasioned by any willful act of that employee to cause the heart disease or hypertension, as long as the employee successfully passed a physical examination upon entry

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into that employment or during the time of that employment that failed to reveal any evidence of that condition.

LD 607 An Act To Direct the Department of Labor To Educate Business and Nonprofit Communities on Overtime Laws

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 563 requires the Department of Labor to conduct a comprehensive educational campaign focused on the business and nonprofit communities on employee overtime laws as described in the Maine Revised Statutes. It also requires the department to submit a report regarding that campaign annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters.

LD 775 An Act To Include within the Definitions of “Public Employee” and “Judicial Employee” Those Who Have Been Employed for Less Than 6 Months

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 601 provides that, for the purposes of the public employees and judicial employees labor relations laws, a person who has been an employee of the State or another public employer for less than six months is considered a public employee and a person who has been an employee of the judicial branch for less than six months is considered a judicial employee. A person who has been an employee of the State or another public employer for less than six months may be dismissed, suspended or otherwise disciplined without cause during the probationary period and is not entitled to a pre-disciplinary hearing. Termination of an employee or any other disciplinary action against an employee during the probationary period is not subject to the grievance and arbitration provision of the collective bargaining agreement.

LD 898 An Act To Create the Essential Support Workforce Advisory Committee

ENACTED LAW SUMMARY

Public Law 2021, chapter 688 establishes the Essential Support Workforce Advisory Committee to advise the Legislature, the Governor and state agencies on issues involving the essential support workforce.