

STATE OF MAINE
124TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



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

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOR

April 2010

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Joint Standing Committee on Labor

**LD 125 Resolve, To Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission To Study the
Functions and Operations of the Maine Public Employees Retirement
System**

ONTP

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

This resolve was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1053.

The resolve establishes a blue ribbon commission to study the functions and operations of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

LD 192 An Act To Index the State Minimum Wage to Inflation

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE GERZOFISKY	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1053.

The bill provides for the state minimum hourly wage to be adjusted for inflation beginning January 1, 2010 and annually thereafter. The bill requires the Department of Labor to calculate the inflation-adjusted minimum hourly wage based on changes in the consumer price index and to exclude from the calculation any month in which the State's unemployment rate exceeds the national unemployment rate.

LD 403 An Act To Increase the Minimum Wage

**LEAVE TO
WITHDRAW**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE JACKSON	LTW	

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1053.

This bill increases the minimum wage to \$8.20 per hour in 2010 and to \$8.90 in 2011. Each year after that, the minimum wage is adjusted based on changes in prices, so that the minimum hourly wage rate maintains employee purchasing power. The price adjustment is based on the change in the Consumer Price Index.

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LD 934 An Act To Clarify Public Sector Employee Fair Choice in Collective Bargaining

ONTP

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

This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session of the 124th Legislature by joint order, H.P. 1053.

Under current law, if a state employee organization or public employee organization files a request with a public employer alleging that a majority of the employees in an appropriate bargaining unit wish to be represented for the purpose of collective bargaining, the public employer may request an election to determine whether there exists majority support among the employees for such representation. This bill provides instead that the public employer may request an inspection of the evidence of written majority authorization on the part of the employees.

LD 1524 Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor To Research and Analyze the Methods Other States Utilize To Assess Benefit Charges When a Worker Becomes Unemployed and Receives Benefits

RESOLVE 147

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BEAULIEU CRAVEN	OTP-AM	H-594

The original bill addresses the situation of two employers who both lay off the same employee within 30 days of each other. The bill requires that both employers be considered the claimant's last employer for purposes of the laws governing unemployment compensation.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-594)

This amendment changes the bill to a resolve. It directs the Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee to examine the methods used by other states to assess benefit charges when a worker who has multiple employers becomes unemployed and receives unemployment benefits. The commissioner or the designee shall also analyze the findings to determine how to best protect Maine employers from inequitable assessments and how to best use technology to implement the findings. The commissioner or the designee shall report findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters by January 15, 2011. The committee is authorized to submit a bill to the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2009, chapter 147 directs the Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee to examine the methods used by other states to assess benefit charges when a worker who has multiple employers becomes unemployed and receives unemployment benefits. The commissioner or the designee shall also analyze the findings to determine how to best protect Maine employers from inequitable assessments and how to best use technology to implement the findings. The commissioner or the designee shall report findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters by January 15, 2011. The committee is authorized to submit a bill to the First Regular Session of the 125th Legislature.

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LD 1528 An Act To Enhance Cooperation between the Workers' Compensation Board's Abuse Investigation Unit and Other State Agencies and To Ensure Equal Application of the Requirement To Obtain Coverage

PUBLIC 520

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP MAJ ONTP MIN	

This bill clarifies that the Workers' Compensation Board's abuse investigation unit may share information with other state agencies to enhance interagency efforts to ensure compliance with their respective laws and rules.

This bill also ensures that the penalties in the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 for failure to procure insurance coverage are applied in the same manner to all business entities. This bill clarifies that limited liability companies may be dissolved as provided in Title 31, section 608-B and that any agent having primary responsibility for obtaining insurance coverage of a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, professional corporation or other business entity is liable for punishment for not procuring said coverage.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 520 clarifies that the Workers' Compensation Board's abuse investigation unit may share information with other state agencies to enhance interagency efforts to ensure compliance with their respective laws and rules.

It ensures that the penalties in the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 for failure to procure insurance coverage are applied in the same manner to all business entities. It clarifies that limited liability companies may be dissolved as provided in Title 31, section 608-B and that any agent having primary responsibility for obtaining insurance coverage of a corporation, partnership, limited liability company, professional corporation or other business entity is liable for punishment for not procuring said coverage.

LD 1529 An Act To Amend the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 Regarding Coordination of Benefits

PUBLIC 521

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	S-380

This bill, which is in response to the decision of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in *Nichols v. S.D. Warren/Sappi*, 2007 ME 103, 928 A.2d 732, provides that "disability insurance policy," as used in the coordination of benefits provisions of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992, does not include a life insurance policy that includes a disability feature.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-380)

This amendment clarifies that if a disability feature of a life insurance policy was put in place as a result of collective bargaining, the disability feature will not be considered a disability insurance policy as used in the coordination of benefits provisions of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992.

Enacted Law Summary

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Public Law 2009, chapter 521, in response to the decision of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in *Nichols v. S.D. Warren/Sappi*, 2007 ME 103, 928 A.2d 732, provides that "disability insurance policy," as used in the coordination of benefits provisions of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992, does not include a life insurance policy that includes a disability feature if that policy was put in place as a result of collective bargaining.

**LD 1543 An Act To Make Maine Laws Consistent with Recent Amendments to
the United States Trade Act of 1974**

PUBLIC 466

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE	OTP	

This bill makes statutory changes to reflect amendments to the United States Trade Act of 1974 made by the United States Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009 and corrects a cross-reference.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 466 makes statutory changes to reflect amendments to the United States Trade Act of 1974 made by the United States Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009 and corrects a cross-reference. The referenced amendments increase the number of weeks Trade Readjustment Assistance benefits are potentially payable (up to an additional 26 weeks) based on the type and duration of training a worker is participating in and expand the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act to more workers and firms, including those providing services to firms impacted by trade, public sector workers, and workers whose firms have shifted production to any foreign country. Further, the referenced amendments expand training opportunities and provide increased flexibility of training options for workers. The law also increases the likelihood that an unemployed worker affected by trade will be able to maintain health insurance by increasing the health care tax credit premium subsidy from 65% to 80% and expanding the conditions under which the health care tax credit is payable.

LD 1545 An Act To Protect Maine Workers

PUBLIC 637

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON	OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN	S-495 S-536 JACKSON

This bill prohibits an employer from employing foreign laborers for five years if the employer violates the required proof of equipment ownership or foreign labor certification laws.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-495)

This amendment is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. It:

1. Prohibits an employer from employing foreign laborers for two years if the employer violates the required proof of logging equipment ownership or foreign labor certification laws;
2. Defines "logging equipment";
3. Eliminates the use of a lease as proof of ownership for logging equipment;

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4. Directs an employer to notify the Maine Department of Labor at the time of filing for certification from the United States Department of Labor to hire a bond worker. The employer shall provide for the year in which a bond worker is employed the number of bond workers requested, a list of each piece of equipment a bond worker will operate, receipts of payment for equipment purchased in bona fide transactions and documentation of payment of any tax assessed on the equipment;
5. Directs the Commissioner of Labor to adopt rules to implement and enforce the provisions regarding proof of logging equipment ownership;
6. Raises the fine from between \$3,000 - \$15,000 to between \$10,000 - \$25,000 for a civil violation of the proof of ownership requirement;
7. Clarifies that the Attorney General may institute injunction proceedings for violations of the laws pertaining to employment of bond workers;
8. Directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services to provide interagency support and field information to assist the Department of Labor in enforcing proof of equipment ownership for employers using bond workers; and
9. Eliminates the allowance in the unemployment law that permits certain foreign agricultural laborers to collect unemployment.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-496)

This amendment is the minority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. It:

1. Defines "immediate family";
2. Clarifies the use of a lease as proof of ownership for logging equipment;
3. Directs an employer to notify the Maine Department of Labor at the time of filing for certification from the United States Department of Labor to hire a bond worker. The employer shall provide, for the year in which a bond worker is employed, the number of bond workers requested, a list of each piece of logging equipment a bond worker will operate, receipts of payment for logging equipment purchased in bona fide transactions and documentation of payment of any tax assessed on the equipment;
4. Directs the Commissioner of Labor to adopt rules to implement and enforce the provisions regarding proof of logging equipment ownership;
5. Clarifies that the Attorney General may institute injunction proceedings for violations of the laws pertaining to the employment of foreign agricultural laborers;
6. Directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services to provide interagency support and field information to assist the Department of Labor in enforcing proof of equipment ownership for employers using bond workers; and
7. Eliminates the allowance in the unemployment laws that permits foreign agricultural laborers to collect unemployment.

This amendment does not affect any punishment, penalty or fine incurred before this amendment takes effect or any action or proceeding pending at the time of this amendment.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-536)

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This amendment adds language to the laws governing proof of equipment ownership for employers using foreign laborers requiring that any lease used to demonstrate ownership must be a bona fide lease and sets forth the standards for determining whether a lease is bona fide.

The amendment requires employers of bond workers to notify the Department of Labor of the name and location of bond workers performing logging work in the State.

The amendment requires employers seeking bond workers to form and participate in a recruitment clearinghouse that assists in evaluating and referring potential logging occupation workers. The Department of Labor will work with the clearinghouse to ensure understanding of, and compliance with, recruitment and hiring requirements under federal regulations and state law.

The amendment requires the Department of Labor to maintain a list of contractors who are seeking to hire bond workers, and to require landowners to hire contractors from that list. Contractors who violate federal regulations or state law relating to bond workers must be removed from the list. A landowner who enters into or maintains a contract with an entity that is not on the list is subject to a fine of up to \$50,000.

The amendment establishes the Foreign Labor Certification Process Fund and adds an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 637 prohibits an employer from employing foreign laborers for two years if the employer violates the foreign labor certification laws and makes such a violation a class E crime.

The law defines "bond worker" and "logging equipment".

It adds language to the laws governing proof of ownership of logging equipment for employers using bond workers. It requires that any lease used be a bona fide lease and sets forth the standards for determining whether a lease is bona fide. It also requires that the employer provide the Maine Department of Labor with contact information about the owner(s), board members, and agent of the leasing company.

The law directs an employer to notify the Maine Department of Labor at the time of filing for certification from the U.S. Department of Labor to hire a bond worker. It requires employers to provide to the Maine Department of Labor the number of bond workers requested, a list of each piece of logging equipment a bond worker will operate, receipts of payment for logging equipment purchased, and documentation of payment of any tax assessed on the logging equipment. The employer shall also notify the Maine Department of Labor within three days of the date on which a bond worker begins work in the state and provide the worker's name and the location of the work.

It prohibits an employer from employing foreign laborers for two years if the employer violated the proof of ownership requirements.

It directs the Commissioner of Labor to adopt rules to implement and enforce the bill.

The law raises the fine from between \$3,000 - \$15,000 to between \$10,000 - \$25,000 for a civil violation of proof of ownership, notification, or for employing a bond worker after violating the proof of ownership section of the law. It also clarifies that the Attorney General may institute injunction proceedings for violations.

It adds the Maine Revenue Service as interagency support to assist the Department of Labor in enforcing proof of equipment ownership for employers using bond workers.

The law requires employers seeking bond workers to form and participate in a recruitment clearinghouse that assists in evaluating and referring potential logging occupation workers. The Maine Department of Labor will work with

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the clearinghouse to ensure understanding of, and compliance with, recruitment and hiring requirements under federal regulations and state law. The Maine Department of Labor is required to maintain a list of contractors who are seeking to hire bond workers, and to require landowners to hire contractors from that list.

If an employment offer is conditioned on a skills test, it must be applied to all new applicants in that job classification and conducted in a reasonable location. If a skills test is required, the employer must submit a copy of the skills test to the Maine Department of Labor and if an applicant is rejected due to failing the skills test, a written statement explaining the failure must be provided to the applicant, the recruitment clearinghouse, and the Maine Department of Labor.

Contracts between landowners and logging employers must contain a provision that allows the landowner to terminate the contract if the logging employer violates federal regulations or state law. Contractors who violate federal regulations or state law relating to bond workers must be removed from the list. A landowner who enters into or maintains a contract with an entity that is not on the list is subject to a fine of up to \$50,000.

The law establishes the Foreign Labor Certification Process Fund.

It eliminates the allowance in the unemployment law that permits foreign agricultural laborers, from contiguous countries with whom the State has an agreement, from collecting unemployment from the State of Maine.

The law creates the necessary exemption for interagency cooperation between the Maine Department of Labor and the Maine Bureau of Revenue Services.

LD 1552 An Act To Improve Employment Opportunities for Maine Workers in the Forest Industry

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN J L JACKSON	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-738 H-779 MARTIN J L

This bill requires a landowner to notify the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Forestry if forest land is harvested by a harvester who uses bonded labor under the federal H-2A bonded labor program under 20 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 655.200 et seq. If a landowner or a harvester employed by or under contract to the landowner uses bonded labor under the federal H-2A bonded labor program or the landowner fails to provide the required notification, the land must be withdrawn from the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law and a penalty assessed under the commercial forestry excise tax to compensate the State for the General Fund contribution to the cost of forest fire protection activities.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-738)

This amendment clarifies the procedure in which a landowner must notify the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Forestry if forest land is harvested by a landowner or harvester who uses bonded labor under the federal H-2A bonded labor program. It indicates that the use of bonded labor on any part of a parcel of tree growth land during the two-year notification cycle will result, upon notification by Maine Revenue Services, in the loss of Maine Tree Growth Tax Law benefits and that the withdrawal penalty will be imposed. It further clarifies that the parcel of land will not benefit from the General Fund contribution to forest fire protection for the property tax year in which bonded labor is used.

House Amendment "B" (H-779)

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This amendment provides that land must be suspended from the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law for any year in which the landowner uses bonded labor or fails to provide the required notification to the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Forestry.

LD 1558 *An Act Regarding Accidental Death Benefits for Beneficiaries of Deceased Firefighters*

PUBLIC 513

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON	OTP-AM	S-379

This bill extends an accidental death benefit to the beneficiary of a professional firefighter who dies from cardiovascular injury or disease or pulmonary disease as described in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 39-A, section 328 while in the line of duty. The benefit applies only if the firefighter was a member of the Participating Local District Retirement Program administered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System and the injury or disease that caused the firefighter's death is the result of a condition that developed within six months of the firefighter's having been in service as a professional firefighter for a municipal fire department. The bill also makes the death benefit retroactive to November 1, 2004.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-379)

This amendment defines a qualifying member for accidental death benefits as a professional firefighter who dies as a result of developing a cardiovascular injury or disease or pulmonary disease resulting from a condition that develops within 30 days of participating in firefighting or training or a drill that involves firefighting. It also establishes a rebuttable presumption that if a professional firefighter develops a cardiovascular injury or disease or pulmonary disease and dies after 30 days, but within six months of participating in firefighting or training or a drill that involves firefighting, the firefighter's death is a result of a firefighting activity. The amendment also directs the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to establish rules to implement the bill. These rules are defined as routine technical rules and must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters before implementation.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 513, defines "professional firefighter" and "qualifying member" for accidental death benefits. In order to obtain accidental death benefits, the professional firefighter must die as a result of developing a cardiovascular injury or disease or pulmonary disease resulting from a condition that develops within 30 days of participating in firefighting or training or a drill that involves firefighting. It also establishes a rebuttable presumption that if a professional firefighter develops a cardiovascular injury or disease or pulmonary disease and dies after 30 days, but within six months of participating in firefighting or training or a drill that involves firefighting, the firefighter's death is a result of a firefighting activity. It directs the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to establish rules to implement the law. These rules are routine technical rules and must be submitted to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters at least 30 days prior to final adoption. The law makes the death benefit retroactive to November 1, 2004.

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LD 1565 An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Misclassification of Construction Workers

PUBLIC 649

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARTIN J L JACKSON	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-746 H-826 MARTIN J L

This bill authorizes the Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation Board to issue a stop-work order if a hiring agent or construction subcontractor has knowingly misrepresented one or more employees as independent contractors, knowingly failed to provide a workers' compensation insurance policy or knowingly provided false, incomplete or misleading information to the board concerning the number of employees.

The stop-work order takes effect when served upon the hiring agent or construction subcontractor and requires the cessation of all business operations. The stop-work order remains in effect until the executive director issues a release upon finding the hiring agent or construction subcontractor has come into compliance and paid any penalty assessed. The stop-work order applies to any successor firm, corporation, or partnership of the hiring agent or construction subcontractor. A hiring agent or construction subcontractor who is subject to a stop-work order may apply to the executive director within 10 days of issuance for a hearing. The hearing and a decision must be rendered within 48 hours of the application.

This bill also prohibits that hiring agent or construction subcontractor from performing work on a public building or other public works for a period of three years.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-746)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the committee, authorizes the Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation Board or the executive director's designee, to issue a stop-work order after a hearing if a hiring agent or construction subcontractor misrepresented one or more employees as independent contractors, failed to provide a workers' compensation insurance policy or provided false, incomplete or misleading information to the Workers' Compensation Board concerning the number of employees. The executive director must give the hiring agent or construction subcontractor 48 hours' notice before the stop-work order hearing. The amendment also includes an appropriations and allocations section to cover enforcement.

House Amendment "C" To Committee Amendment "A" (H-826)

This amendment authorizes the Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation Board or the executive director's designee to stay a stop-work order if a hiring agent or construction subcontractor provides evidence that the hiring agent or subcontractor has complied with the provisions of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992. It also extends the notice of hearing provision from 48 hours to three business days.

This amendment protects an issuer of surety bonds from liability when a payment or a performance bond is required of a hiring agent or construction subcontractor and that hiring agent or construction subcontractor is subject to a stop-work order from the Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation Board.

This amendment also defines what will be considered a knowing violation of the provision requiring that workers' compensation insurance be obtained for the purpose of issuing a stop-work order.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 649 authorizes the Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation Board or the

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executive director's designee, after a hearing, to issue a stop-work order to a hiring agent or construction subcontractor who knowingly failed to provide workers' compensation insurance for employees. The hiring agent or construction subcontractor must receive at least three business days' notice of a hearing regarding a stop-work order. The executive director or the executive director's designee shall stay a stop-work order if a hiring agent or construction subcontractor provides evidence that the hiring agent or construction subcontractor has complied with the provisions of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992. A stop-work order remains in effect until the executive director or the executive director's designee issues an order releasing the stop-work order upon finding of compliance and the hiring agent or construction subcontractor has paid any penalty assessed or has entered into a penalty payment agreement with the Workers' Compensation Board. Any stop-work order issued applies to any successor firm, corporation or partnership of the hiring agent or construction subcontractor.

The law protects an issuer of surety bonds from liability when a payment or a performance bond is required of a hiring agent or construction subcontractor and that hiring agent or construction subcontractor is subject to a stop-work order from the Executive Director of the Workers' Compensation Board.

The law defines a knowing violation of the provision requiring that workers' compensation insurance be obtained for the purpose of issuing a stop-work order.

Positions to enhance the enforcement of laws prohibiting misclassification of workers must be funded from the Workers' Compensation Board's reserve account.

LD 1566 An Act Relating to the Membership of the Workers' Compensation Board

PUBLIC 640

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BUTTERFIELD JACKSON	OTP-AM	H-659 S-399 BRYANT B

This bill clarifies the current restrictions on Workers' Compensation Board membership related to lobbying and being a service provider by providing that Workers' Compensation Board members may lobby on behalf of the board and by defining the term "service provider" for purposes of being a member of the board.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-659)

This amendment replaces the bill and clarifies the current restrictions on the Workers' Compensation Board membership with regard to any possible conflict of interest between a member and an issue in front of the board. It cites the conflict of interest provisions found in the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992, which refers to the disqualification of executive employees from participating in matters that appear to be a conflict of interest by disclosure or by abstention found in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 18.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-399)

This amendment, like the bill, relates to the membership of the Workers' Compensation Board. Current law restricts the term of a member representing management or labor to two full terms. This amendment repeals that restriction.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 640 clarifies the current restrictions on the Workers' Compensation Board membership with regard to any possible conflict of interest between a member and an issue in front of the board. It cites the conflict of interest provisions found in the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992, which refers to the disqualification of executive employees from participating in matters that appear to be a conflict of interest by

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disclosure or by abstention found in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 18. It removes the two-term restriction to membership on the Workers' Compensation Board.

LD 1582 *An Act To Bring the Laws of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System into Compliance with the Federal Internal Revenue Code*

PUBLIC 474

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TUTTLE JACKSON	OTP-AM	H-595

This bill makes changes to the laws governing the qualified defined benefit retirement programs administered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to conform them to provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code. These changes are necessary to ensure the continued qualified status and favorable tax treatment of the defined benefit programs under the Internal Revenue Code, Sections 401(a) and 414(d) and other applicable provisions. The Maine Public Employees Retirement System has received favorable determination letters from the Internal Revenue Service confirming the continued qualification of the Legislative Retirement Program, Judicial Retirement Program, State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program and Participating Local District Retirement Program, subject in part to the adoption of the changes proposed in this bill.

The bill adds language to clarify that applicable retirement programs are intended to be governmental qualified defined benefit plans under the Internal Revenue Code.

The bill amends the respective retirement program statutes to comply with specific Internal Revenue Code requirements that govern certain operational procedures currently in practice but that must be specifically referred to in the written plan document. In addition, the bill amends the respective retirement programs to comply with the provisions of the federal Tax Reform Act of 1986, the federal Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1992, the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993; the federal Uruguay Round Agreements Act, the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, the federal Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, the federal Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, the federal Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998, the federal Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000 and the federal Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001. More specifically, the bill:

1. Confirms that a member is 100% vested in the member's contribution account pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(7);
2. Specifies that a forfeiture of a benefit by a member or former member must be used to reduce the unfunded liability of the employer pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(8);
3. Provides that distributions to members must commence no later than the April 1st following the calendar year in which the member attains 70 1/2 years of age pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(9), known as the "required minimum distribution," and must be paid in accordance with the Code;
4. Provides that annual compensation of an eligible member that exceeds \$245,000, adjusted yearly for cost-of-living increases, may not be taken into account in determining benefits or contributions due for any plan year pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(17);
5. Defines what constitutes an eligible retirement plan, an eligible rollover distribution and a member for favorable tax rollovers pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(31);

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6. Specifies how contributions, benefits and service credit with respect to qualified military service must be provided in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code, Section 414(u) and the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994;
7. Establishes a ceiling on the amount of annual retirement benefits that may be provided to a member pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 415, currently \$195,000 for a member who has at least 10 years of service and who is at least 62 years of age; and
8. Prohibits the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System from engaging in certain transactions pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 503(b).

The bill authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to adopt rules necessary to maintain the qualified tax status of the governmental defined benefit retirement plans administered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

The bill amends the waiver provisions of the Legislative Retirement Program to provide that a Legislator is allowed a one-time irrevocable election of whether to join the program. This language is added to comport with various provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, federal treasury regulations and guidance providing that employees in a defined benefit plan or pick-up plan may not have an election with respect to participation or the amount of contributions unless that election is a one-time irrevocable election at the commencement of employment, and that election survives the employee's entire working life with that employer.

The bill provides a maximum automatic refund amount under the existing refund of inactive account statutes pursuant to Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(31)(B).

The bill establishes the employer reporting requirements for employees with optional membership in the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program and sets forth the responsibilities of the employer in the optional membership election process.

The bill amends the optional membership statutes in the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program to provide for a one-time irrevocable election and removes all provisions relating to delayed elections and reentry into the plan to comport with federal law.

The bill repeals language related to the purchase of back contributions that is no longer applicable due to the elimination of certain election options.

The bill establishes the conditions under which a person who is a member prior to August 1, 2010 may purchase service credit.

The bill amends the group life insurance program statutes to remove language that is no longer applicable.

The bill amends the optional membership provision in the Participating Local District Retirement Program to provide for a one-time irrevocable election to participate in the program.

The bill provides for a one-time irrevocable election for persons hired by a participating local district with Social Security coverage.

The bill provides for a one-time irrevocable election for persons hired, or rehired, by a participating local district that created an alternative retirement plan prior to the person's hire date. It also provides that an

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employee of a participating local district that creates an alternative plan after the person's date of hire can make a one-time irrevocable election into the alternative plan within 90 days.

The bill amends the conditions under which a member may withdraw accumulated contributions when a participating local district withdraws from the program.

The bill amends the conditions under which the retirement system must refund the assets of a withdrawn participating local district to include that the plan must be terminated in accordance with federal law.

The bill removes language regarding optional members rejoining a program of the retirement system that is no longer applicable.

The bill amends the establishment clause of the Participating Local District Consolidated Retirement Plan to clarify that the plan is intended to be a governmental defined benefit plan and to state the purpose of the plan in a manner consistent with the other Maine Public Employees Retirement System defined benefit retirement programs.

The bill amends the Maine Community College System retirement plan statutes to provide for a one-time irrevocable election into the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-595)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 474 makes changes to the laws governing the qualified defined benefit retirement programs administered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to conform them to provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code. These changes are necessary to ensure the continued qualified status and favorable tax treatment of the defined benefit programs under the Internal Revenue Code, Sections 401(a) and 414(d) and other applicable provisions. The Maine Public Employees Retirement System has received favorable determination letters from the Internal Revenue Service confirming the continued qualification of the Legislative Retirement Program, Judicial Retirement Program, State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program and Participating Local District Retirement Program, subject in part to the adoption of the changes proposed in this law.

The law adds language to clarify that applicable retirement programs are intended to be governmental qualified defined benefit plans under the Internal Revenue Code.

The law amends the respective retirement program statutes to comply with specific Internal Revenue Code requirements that govern certain operational procedures currently in practice but that must be specifically referred to in the written plan document. In addition, the law amends the respective retirement programs to comply with the provisions of the federal Tax Reform Act of 1986, the federal Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1992, the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993; the federal Uruguay Round Agreements Act, the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, the federal Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, the federal Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, the federal Internal Revenue Service Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998, the federal Community Renewal Tax Relief Act of 2000 and the federal Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001. More specifically, Public Law 2009, chapter 474:

1. Confirms that a member is 100% vested in the member's contribution account pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(7);

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2. Specifies that a forfeiture of a benefit by a member or former member must be used to reduce the unfunded liability of the employer pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(8);
3. Provides that distributions to members must commence no later than the April 1st following the calendar year in which the member attains 70 1/2 years of age pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(9), known as the "required minimum distribution," and must be paid in accordance with the Code;
4. Provides that annual compensation of an eligible member that exceeds \$245,000, adjusted yearly for cost-of-living increases, may not be taken into account in determining benefits or contributions due for any plan year pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(17);
5. Defines what constitutes an eligible retirement plan, an eligible rollover distribution and a member for favorable tax rollovers pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(31);
6. Specifies how contributions, benefits and service credit with respect to qualified military service must be provided in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code, Section 414(u) and the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994;
7. Establishes a ceiling on the amount of annual retirement benefits that may be provided to a member pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 415, currently \$195,000 for a member who has at least 10 years of service and who is at least 62 years of age; and
8. Prohibits the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System from engaging in certain transactions pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code, Section 503(b).

The law authorizes the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to adopt rules necessary to maintain the qualified tax status of the governmental defined benefit retirement plans administered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

The law amends the waiver provisions of the Legislative Retirement Program to provide that a Legislator is allowed a one-time irrevocable election of whether to join the program. This language is added to comport with various provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, federal treasury regulations and guidance providing that employees in a defined benefit plan or pick-up plan may not have an election with respect to participation or the amount of contributions unless that election is a one-time irrevocable election at the commencement of employment, and that election survives the employee's entire working life with that employer.

The law provides a maximum automatic refund amount under the existing refund of inactive account statutes pursuant to Internal Revenue Code, Section 401(a)(31)(B).

The law establishes the employer reporting requirements for employees with optional membership in the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program and sets forth the responsibilities of the employer in the optional membership election process.

The law amends the optional membership statutes in the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program to provide for a one-time irrevocable election and removes all provisions relating to delayed elections and reentry into the plan to comport with federal law.

The law repeals language related to the purchase of back contributions that is no longer applicable due to the elimination of certain election options.

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The law establishes the conditions under which a person who is a member prior to August 1, 2010 may purchase service credit.

The law amends the group life insurance program statutes to remove language that is no longer applicable.

The law amends the optional membership provision in the Participating Local District Retirement Program to provide for a one-time irrevocable election to participate in the program.

The law provides for a one-time irrevocable election for persons hired by a participating local district with Social Security coverage.

The law provides for a one-time irrevocable election for persons hired, or rehired, by a participating local district that created an alternative retirement plan prior to the person's hire date. It also provides that an employee of a participating local district that creates an alternative plan after the person's date of hire can make a one-time irrevocable election into the alternative plan within 90 days.

The law amends the conditions under which a member may withdraw accumulated contributions when a participating local district withdraws from the program.

The law amends the conditions under which the retirement system must refund the assets of a withdrawn participating local district to include that the plan must be terminated in accordance with federal law.

The law removes language regarding optional members rejoining a program of the retirement system that is no longer applicable.

The law amends the establishment clause of the Participating Local District Consolidated Retirement Plan to clarify that the plan is intended to be a governmental defined benefit plan and to state the purpose of the plan in a manner consistent with the other Maine Public Employees Retirement System defined benefit retirement programs.

The law amends the Maine Community College System retirement plan statutes to provide for a one-time irrevocable election into the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Program.

**LD 1595 *An Act To Provide Continued Protection of Benefits for Retirees of the
Maine Public Employees Retirement System***

PUBLIC 473

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E	OTP-AM	S-356

This bill protects retirees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System from decreases in retirement benefits due to decreases in the Consumer Price Index. This extends, to multiple years, the number of times a cost-of-living adjustment may be made to recapture actuarial gains lost as a result of a decline in the Consumer Price Index. This bill ensures cost neutrality for the unusual case where the Consumer Price Index in any year is not sufficient to compensate for it having been below zero the previous year.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-356)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

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Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 473 protects retirees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System from decreases in retirement benefits due to decreases in the Consumer Price Index. This extends, to multiple years, the number of times a cost-of-living adjustment may be made to recapture actuarial gains lost as a result of a decline in the Consumer Price Index. It ensures cost neutrality for the unusual case where the Consumer Price Index in any year is not sufficient to compensate for it having been below zero the previous year.

**LD 1626 An Act To Amend the Unemployment Compensation Laws Regarding
Vacation Pay**

PUBLIC 638

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PINGREE JACKSON	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	H-648 S-540 DIAMOND

Under current law, an individual is disqualified from receiving unemployment compensation benefits for various reasons, such as voluntarily leaving work; being discharged for misconduct; refusal to accept work; a work stoppage; falsifying on the work application; conviction of a felony or misdemeanor in connection with his or her work; absence from work due to incarceration; receiving remuneration in the form of "dismissal wages, wages in lieu of notice, terminal pay, vacation pay or holiday pay," or for unemployment benefits received from another state. This bill removes the vacation pay restriction.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-648)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, strikes the emergency preamble and the emergency clause from the bill. The amendment also provides funding for the estimated cost of the expansion of unemployment insurance benefits for state agencies that must directly reimburse the Unemployment Trust Fund and adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-540)

This amendment strikes out the appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 638 removes the restriction that disqualifies an individual from receiving unemployment compensation benefits for any week in which the individual receives, is entitled to receive or has received remuneration in the form of vacation pay. It allows executive branch departments and agencies to request transfers from the Salary Plan program for the additional General Fund and Highway Fund costs incurred as a result of the additional unemployment benefits authorized by this law.

**LD 1657 An Act Regarding Maine Public Employees Retirement System Life
Insurance Policies**

**PUBLIC 515
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
HOBBINS	OTP-AM	S-376

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This bill amends the law governing the distribution of group life insurance and group accidental death insurance benefits by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to state employees and teachers to require that the benefit be paid to the deceased's duly appointed executor, personal representative or conservator for distribution according to the provisions of a lawfully executed will if there is no qualifying beneficiary designated at the time of the employee's death. The bill also makes technical changes to the law to accommodate this revision in the order of precedence.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-376)

This amendment replaces the bill and moves the deceased employee's duly appointed executor or personal representative of the employee's will after widow or widower in precedence for payment of group life insurance and group accidental death insurance benefits by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to state employees and teachers. The amendment also amends the law governing coverage for employees of participating local districts in order to maintain consistency across the program. The amendment establishes a time frame within which an executor or personal representative must contact the retirement system in order for the claim proceeds to be distributed to the estate. The amendment removes all references to "conservator." The amendment makes the changes retroactive to January 1, 2009 for group life insurance and group accidental death claims not yet paid by the retirement system. The amendment also adds an emergency preamble and clause to the bill.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 515 moves the deceased employee's duly appointed executor or personal representative of the employee's will after widow or widower in precedence for payment of group life insurance and group accidental death insurance benefits by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to state employees and teachers. It also amends the section of law governing coverage for employees of participating local districts in order to maintain consistency across the program. The law establishes a time frame of six months from the date of the death of the employee within which an executor or personal representative must contact the retirement system in order for the claim proceeds to be distributed to the estate. The law removes all references to "conservator." The law also makes the changes retroactive to January 1, 2009 for group life insurance and group accidental death claims not yet paid by the retirement system.

Public Law 2009, chapter 515 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 17, 2010.

LD 1665 An Act To Prevent the Spread of H1N1

**DIED IN
CONCURRENCE**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL E	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

This bill requires an employer to give a maximum of 52 accrued hours of paid sick leave per year to any employee who is employed by a large business employer and a maximum of 26 accrued hours of paid sick leave per year to any employee who is employed by a small business employer. Paid sick leave is accrued from the first day of employment and can be used on the 90th day and thereafter.

Earned paid sick leave may be used by an employee during an absence from employment due to the physical or mental illness, injury or medical condition of an employee or an employee's family member; if the employee's place of business is closed due to a public health emergency; if an employee needs to care for a dependent whose school or place of care has been closed due to a public health emergency; for the purpose of an employee accessing necessary preventive health care or an employee's family member accessing necessary preventive health care; or due to the employee or the employee's family member being a victim of stalking, domestic violence or sexual abuse.

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An employer who provides compensated leave for reasons included in the bill equal to or greater than required by the bill satisfies the obligations of the bill. The bill applies to employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement.

The bill prohibits an employer from discharging, demoting, suspending, disciplining, threatening, or otherwise discriminating against an employee who requests paid sick leave for reasons asserted in the bill or who files a complaint, testifies, or assists in an action brought against the employer for a violation of this bill. The bill does not prohibit an employer from taking employment action against an employer for taking leave that is not protected under this bill.

The bill requires the Maine Department of Labor to adopt routine technical rules to implement and enforce the bill.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-470)

This amendment prohibits an employer from discharging, demoting, suspending, disciplining or discriminating against an employee who misses work or comes to work late for no more than five days in 12 months due to illness of the employee or of a family member of the employee. The employee must make reasonable efforts to notify the employer at the time of the illness.

The amendment does not prohibit an employer from taking employment action against an employee for taking time off that is not protected by this or other applicable law.

The Department of Labor is required to adopt routine technical rules to implement this provision. The employee may seek relief from a violation of this provision by bringing a civil action in the appropriate court.

LD 1681 An Act To Implement a Maine Unemployment Insurance Work-sharing Program

**LEAVE TO
WITHDRAW**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JACKSON	LTW	

This bill creates a work-sharing program that provides an alternative to layoffs during a temporary slowdown in business. Under a work-sharing plan, an employer elects to avoid layoffs by reducing the number of regularly scheduled hours of work for all workers in a specific unit or department or the business as a whole. Unemployment insurance benefits for the reduced hours of work are then payable as a proportion of the benefit amount for a full week of unemployment.

A work-sharing plan is voluntary on the part of the employer. A plan must be approved by the Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee and, if the employees are unionized, by their collective bargaining agent.

LD 1711 An Act To Clarify the Status of Prisoners

PUBLIC 529

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MAGNAN	OTP-AM	H-676

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This bill clarifies that certain prisoners are not considered employees with regard to minimum wage laws unless they fit within one of the listed categories. The categories include sentenced prisoners who are employed by a private employer; participating in a work release program, sentenced outside an institution under a set of rigorous conditions imposed at sentencing (17-A MRSA 1261); participating in one of more than 50 non-Federal prison work pilot projects (18 USC 1761); or on probation (34-A MRSA 2020-A).

Committee Amendment "A" (H-676)

This amendment adds persons employed while in a community confinement monitoring program to the list of persons protected by minimum wage law. It also adds this same group to the definition of "employee" in the workers' compensation laws. The amendment conforms a section of workers' compensation law that deals with incarcerated individuals to that definition.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 529 clarifies that certain prisoners are not considered employees with regard to minimum wage laws unless they fit within one of the listed categories. The categories include sentenced prisoners who are employed by a private employer; participating in a work release program, sentenced outside an institution under a set of rigorous conditions imposed at sentencing (17-A MRSA 1261); participating in one of more than 50 non-Federal prison work pilot projects (18 USC 1761); or on probation (34-A MRSA 2020-A).

The law adds persons employed while in a community confinement monitoring program to the list of persons protected by minimum wage law. It adds this same group to the definition of "employee" in the workers' compensation laws. The law conforms a section of workers' compensation law that deals with incarcerated individuals to that definition.

LD 1715 An Act To Provide the Finance Authority of Maine with Flexible Health Care Options

ONTP

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

This bill adds the employees of the Finance Authority of Maine to those eligible for participation in the state group health plan.

The bill was no longer necessary because it was identical to a provision in the supplemental budget, Public Law 2009, chapter 571.

LD 1776 An Act To Protect Retirement Income

**PUBLIC 630
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SIMPSON	OTP-AM	S-405 S-542 DIAMOND

This bill allows teachers covered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to purchase time attributable to days off without pay as a result of budget decisions made by local school administrative units for fiscal years

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ending June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011. This bill provides to teachers the same benefits available to state employees.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-405)

This amendment adds an emergency preamble and clause.

The amendment allows participating local district employees covered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to make payments equal to retirement contributions that would have been made if the employees had been paid on days off without pay as a result of budget decisions made by a participating local district for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011. This amendment provides to those employees the same benefits available to other system members.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-542)

This amendment makes changes to conform to changes made in the supplemental budget, Public Law 2009, chapter 571.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 630 allows participating local district employees covered by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to make payments equal to retirement contributions that would have been made if the employees had been paid on days off without pay as a result of budget decisions made by a participating local district for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2011. This benefit is available to other members of the system.

Public Law 2009, chapter 630 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 9, 2010.

LD 1815 An Act To Clarify the Construction Subcontractor Status of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992

**PUBLIC 569
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

Pursuant to Public Law 2009, chapter 452, this bill clarifies construction subcontractor status for purposes of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 by making the predetermination status valid for one year. The predetermination creates a rebuttable presumption that the determination is correct in any later claim for benefits under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992. The bill does not require a worker, an employer or workers' compensation insurance carrier to request predetermination. The bill directs the Workers' Compensation Board to update the predetermination application, within existing resources, and submit it for review by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor. The bill also includes an appropriations and allocations section.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2009, chapter 569 clarifies construction subcontractor status for purposes of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 by making the predetermination status valid for one year. The predetermination creates a rebuttable presumption that the determination is correct in any later claim for benefits under the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992.

The law does not require a worker, an employer or workers' compensation insurance carrier to request predetermination.

The law directs the Workers' Compensation Board to update the predetermination application, within existing

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resources, and submit it for review by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor.

Public Law 2009, chapter 569 was enacted as an emergency measure effective March 30, 2010.

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SUBJECT INDEX

Collective Bargaining

Not Enacted

LD 934	An Act To Clarify Public Sector Employee Fair Choice in Collective Bargaining	ONTP
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Employee Benefits

Not Enacted

LD 1715	An Act To Provide the Finance Authority of Maine with Flexible Health Care Options	ONTP
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Employment Practices

Enacted

LD 1545	An Act To Protect Maine Workers	PUBLIC 637
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Not Enacted

LD 1552	An Act To Improve Employment Opportunities for Maine Workers in the Forest Industry	INDEF PP
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LD 1665	An Act To Prevent the Spread of H1N1	DIED IN CONCURRENCE
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State Retirement System

Enacted

LD 1558	An Act Regarding Accidental Death Benefits for Beneficiaries of Deceased Firefighters	PUBLIC 513
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LD 1582	An Act To Bring the Laws of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System into Compliance with the Federal Internal Revenue Code	PUBLIC 474
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LD 1595	An Act To Provide Continued Protection of Benefits for Retirees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System	PUBLIC 473
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LD 1657	An Act Regarding Maine Public Employees Retirement System Life Insurance Policies	PUBLIC 515 EMERGENCY
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LD 1776	An Act To Protect Retirement Income	PUBLIC 630 EMERGENCY
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Not Enacted

LD 125	Resolve, To Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission To Study the Functions and Operations of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System	ONTP
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Unemployment Compensation

Enacted

LD 1524	Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor To Research and Analyze the Methods Other States Utilize To Assess Benefit Charges When a Worker Becomes Unemployed and Receives Benefits	RESOLVE 147
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LD 1543	An Act To Make Maine Laws Consistent with Recent Amendments to the United States Trade Act of 1974	PUBLIC 466
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LD 1626	An Act To Amend the Unemployment Compensation Laws Regarding Vacation Pay	PUBLIC 638
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Not Enacted

LD 1681	An Act To Implement a Maine Unemployment Insurance Work-sharing Program	LEAVE TO WITHDRAW
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Wages

Enacted

LD 1711	An Act To Clarify the Status of Prisoners	PUBLIC 529
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Not Enacted

LD 192	An Act To Index the State Minimum Wage to Inflation	INDEF PP
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LD 403	An Act To Increase the Minimum Wage	LEAVE TO WITHDRAW
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Workers' Compensation

Enacted

LD 1528	An Act To Enhance Cooperation between the Workers' Compensation Board's Abuse Investigation Unit and Other State Agencies and To Ensure Equal Application of the Requirement To Obtain Coverage	PUBLIC 520
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LD 1529	An Act To Amend the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 Regarding Coordination of Benefits	PUBLIC 521
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LD 1565	An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Misclassification of Construction Workers	PUBLIC 649
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LD 1566	An Act Relating to the Membership of the Workers' Compensation Board	PUBLIC 640
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