

MEMORANDUM

TO: MYCA Directors and Mary Ellen Deschenes
FROM: Jack Erler
DATE: January 28, 2013
RE: Legislative Report #1

The 126th Legislature is now in session. This is the 100 day (long) session and thus will go until sometime in June. The date (Cloture) for submitting Legislative Documents (LDs or bills) was January 18th. Some 1,780 bills were submitted. With Cloture happening so late it will be a slow start to this session.

I now have reviewed 122 LDs in this new legislative session. So far there are seven bills of some interest to camps and the following are of greater interest to youth camps:

LD 1 An Act To Amend the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992. This bill has a large number of changes of which two may be of interest to camps.

First, is a provision that would extent from 1 year to 2 years the employer's obligation to reinstate an injured employee. Under the law, that obligation is: "When an employee has suffered a compensable injury, the employee is entitled, upon request, to reinstatement to the employee's former position *if the position is available* and suitable to the employee's physical condition. If the employee's former position is not available or suitable, the employee is entitled, upon request, to reinstatement *to any other available position suitable to the employee's physical condition.*" (Italics added by me)

Second, the underlined sentence is to be added to the section requiring an employer to report an employee's work related injury: "An insured employer that has notice or knowledge of any such injury and fails to give timely notice to its insurer shall reimburse the insurer for any penalty that is due as a result of the late filing of the report of the injury."

LD 95 Resolve, To Create the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children. As indicated in the title this bill would authorize the formation of such a task force.

LD 93 An Act To Require Public Secondary Schools To Offer a Course in Gun Safety and Handling. The title of this bill states its purpose. Note the word "require". This is only the first of many gun bills.