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Maine Women's Lobby

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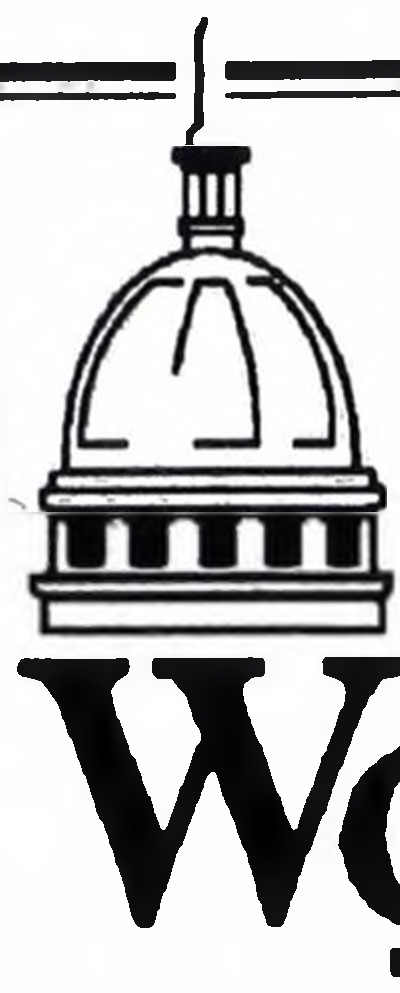
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Maine Women's Lobby

P.O. Box 15, Hallowell, Maine 04347
Telephone 622-0851

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April 1992

NEWSLETTER

Number 3

A VICTORY!

The Non-Traditional Occupations Act Passes

by **MARY McPHERSON**
MWL Executive Director

Passage of the Non-traditional Occupations Act will lead to the expansion and improvement of training and employment opportunities for women in Maine. Sponsored by Representative Anne Rand of Portland, the law will require the administrators of the Job Training and Partnership Act (JTPA) program to focus attention on non-traditional occupations (NTOs), jobs in which less than 25% of the workforce is either female or male.

Overall, there is a marked difference in average pay for those positions in which a majority of the workers are male and those in which a majority are female. Not unexpectedly, the

jobs which meet the definition of non-traditional occupation for women have a substantially higher rate of pay. [See chart on page 2.]

There are a number of reasons that women are under-represented in male dominated occupations (i.e. carpenters, electricians, brickmasons, plumbers, auto mechanics and welders) including:

++ socialization and tracking in schools which discourages young women from gaining the skills necessary to perform these jobs;

++ women are tracked toward employment they and their job counselors are already familiar with such as clerical

see **VICTORY** on page 2

Budget provokes mixed feelings

Advocates for women and children have distinctly mixed feelings about the final results of the 1992-93 Budget signed by the Governor on April 1. On one hand, we should celebrate the effectiveness of our campaign to minimize cuts to the programs essential to Maine's women and children. Through the newly established telephone tree of the Maine Women's Lobby, the efforts of Taxpayers for a Fair Budget (the Lobby is a member group), and the work of other organizations and individuals around the state, we were able to help avert devastating cuts in essential services. On the other hand, we were frustrated to see that, once again, Governor McKernan and the majority in the Legislature fo-

cused on cuts to programs and state workers rather than concentrating attention on Taxpayers For A Fair Budget's recommendation to put sales tax exemptions, the income tax formula, and other progressive tax solutions on the table.

Final action on the Budget includes:

Maine Health Program — The Governor's proposal to eliminate the Maine Health Program for adults was rejected. The program, which provides health coverage for Maine's working poor, continues to cover approximately 4,000 adults. Although enrollment for adults is currently frozen until further notice, we hope some additional slots

see **BUDGET** on page 3

INSIDE:

**Technical Assistant
Grant Secured** — P. 3

Choice Coalition — P. 4

500,000 Strong! — P. 5

Phone Tree planted — P. 10

Legislative Update — P. 11

VICTORY . . .

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

work, nurses assistants, etc.;

++ women may experience harassment/discrimination on the job and need information and skills in how to effectively deal with this, along with an ongoing support system, to remain on the job.

The JTPA program is administered by the Maine Department of Labor with services provided by local agencies who contract with the Department. Participants in the JTPA program are underemployed or unemployed. Approximately 65% are women. The majority of these women have children, and many are single parents.

For information about the JTPA provider closest to you, call the Maine Department of Labor at 289-3377.

This law will provide women with access to non-traditional jobs by requiring:

— Staff training for service providers on NTO issues including differences in the economic status of men and women; the social, personal and economic barriers encoun-

“Not unexpectedly, the jobs which meet the definition of non-traditional occupation for women have a substantially higher rate of pay”

tered in training and job placement and on the job by individuals pursuing NTOs; and methods for recruiting individuals for NTOs;

— The development of an assessment tool that will determine a participant's interest in NTOs;

— Payment for support services needed while the participant is enrolled in a training program including child care, transportation, and training materials (books, tools, uniforms);

— Ongoing support systems (counseling, peer groups) for participants during training and after job placement;

— Monthly statistical reporting on NTOs by the Department to the Legislature's Labor Committee, as well as an annual face to face report each year in February.

The Department's goal for placing participants in NTOs will be, at a minimum, 15% of all participants.

The Non-traditional Occupations Act also amends the Maine Code of Fair Practice. This amendment adds an affirmative action requirement for contractors and subcontractors on state contracts in excess of \$50,000. Federally funded projects have had this requirement, but this provision will significantly expand the number of Maine businesses which will need to initiate an affirmative action program, expanding efforts to recruit and hire women and minorities.

Average Hourly Wages

Traditional & Nontraditional Occupations in Demand in Maine

Female-Traditional

1990 Average Hourly Wage (1)

Sales floor stock clerk	\$ 5.16
Cashier	5.35
File Clerk	5.97
Certified Nursing Assistant	6.24
Switchboard Operator	6.26
Receptionist	6.42
General clerk, office	6.76
Data entry clerk	6.97
Sewing machine operator	6.62
Bank teller	7.53
Accounting clerk	7.65
Secretaries (except medical and legal)	8.21

Female Non-traditional

1990 Avg. Hourly Wage Non-mfg — Mfg (2)

Freight stock and mat'l mover	\$ 7.25	
Forklift operator		7.53
Maintenance repairers — gen'l utility	8.10	10.88
Head sawer (sawmill)		9.18
Welder	9.01	10.12
Truck driver (tractor trailer)	9.28	10.48
Electrician		10.85
Machinist	11.05	10.93

(1) Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research. 1988 Non-manufacturing survey, revised to be current in 1990.

(2) Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Security, Division of Economic Analysis and Research. 1989 Manufacturing survey, revised to be current in 1990.

Thank you to all the Non-traditional Occupations Act Supporters:

Rep. Anne Rand of Portland, Prime Sponsor of L.D. 2381.

Co-Sponsors Rep. Marge Kilkelly of Wiscasset; Rep. Richard Ruhlin of Brewer; Rep. Vivian St. Onge of Greene; Yvonne Danborg, Maine Council on Vocational Education; Gwen Gatcomb, Maine AFL-CIO; John Hanson, Bureau of Labor Education; Liz Harris and Barbara Jessen; all the women of the Maine Tradeswomen's Network who attended the public hearing; Jane Lincoln, Jane Gilbert, and Amanda Dougherty of the Maine Department of Transportation; and Wayne Hollingsworth, Lisa Martin, Gwen Pearl, Charles Weeks, and H. E. Sargent.

MWL/WDI receive Women's Agenda Technical Assistance Grant

by **ELLEN GOLDEN**
MWL Board Member

The Maine Women's Lobby (MWL) and the Women's Development Institute (WDI) are the recipients of a \$5,000 grant from the Women's Agenda Technical Assistance Project. The Project is a joint venture of the Partnership for Democracy and the Center for Policy Alternatives, two Washington, D.C.-based organizations; the Ford Foundation provided funding for the project.

The grant to MWL/WDI was one of seven awarded nationally. The other women's agenda projects receiving fund-

ing were in New Jersey, North Carolina, Wisconsin, Colorado, Idaho, and New Mexico.

The project is designed to help sustain women's advocacy groups by developing their fundraising capacity. In addition to the grant, which will be supporting the development of WDI, the project will also be providing technical assistance to MWL/WDI. As part of the technical assistance portion of the project, a representative of MWL attended a grantee's conference in Seattle, Washington, in early April. In addition to having the opportunity to meet and share

experiences with the other grantees, MWL received training in raising money from individuals, financial management, tax issues for 501(c)3 and 501(c)4 organizations, and organizational development.

Thanks to the grant, WDI will be moving ahead with its development plans over the coming months. Included will be public education campaigns targeted to sexual harassment and breast cancer awareness, public forums, and research into new sources of funds to support the increasingly important women's advocacy work that MWL/WDI do.

BUDGET (continued)

will become available in the coming year. Enrollment for children through age 20 remains open, and applications for them will be taken at any Department of Human Services office.

AFDC—The Legislature rejected the Governor's proposals to:

- 1) deny increased benefits to mothers who have additional children while on AFDC; and
- 2) further reduce benefits for AFDC recipients who currently have employment — however minimal — or receive child support from an absent

parent.

Employment and Training Programs—As a continuation of cuts made in the fiscal year '92 budget, funding for 100 new ASPIRE participants was eliminated for fiscal year '93, despite an ASPIRE waiting list of more than 4,000 people statewide.

Also continued were modest cuts in the Displaced Homemakers Program, STAR, and Maine Training Initiative, while federal funding for the JTPA Program has been increased by 7 million dollars (great news for the Non-Traditional Occupations Act!).

Homeless Shelters/Domestic Violence Shelters — Proposed reductions

in the Maine State Housing Authority's shelter operating subsidy (S.O.S.) program were rejected. Part of this funding goes to the Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services.

Property Tax "Circuit Breakers" — The proposed reduction in the property tax relief program was eliminated from the budget, except that the maximum household income for eligibility was reduced from \$60,000 to \$50,000.

It is certain the Battle of the Budget will be back in the 116th Legislature next January. The Lobby will be working actively to prepare for this next round. Our efforts over the next eight months will include:

- Refining our telephone tree.
- Providing our membership with information on the candidates for election in November. We must all actively support the candidates who support us.
- Meeting with members of the Lobby around the state to develop an affirmative grassroots strategy for influencing decisions on the budget and advocating for legislation important to women.

If you're interested in helping to organize a local event for the Lobby please call Mary McPherson at 622-0851.



**Maine
Women's
Lobby**

P.O. Box 15, Hallowell Maine 04347

The Maine Women's Lobby Newsletter is the official publication of the Maine Women's Lobby.

Eleanor Goldberg, Chair;
Mary McPherson, Executive
Director/Lobbyist.

Telephone: 622-0851

Printed on
Recycled Paper



Update on the Choice Coalition

by **KAREN HECK**
MWL Board member

As you know, Gov. McKernan decided against introducing a Freedom of Choice bill in the last legislative session. That, however, doesn't mean it's the end of the story.

The Choice Coalition is urging members to call the governor's office and tell him of your disappointment with his decision. In addition, urge him to introduce legislation as soon as possible — in a special session if necessary — that will repeal the old 48 hour waiting period law and codify existing policy that the State of Maine will not interfere with a

In addition to making our voices heard now, we need to make them heard in November.

woman's right to choose abortion up to the point of viability.

While a 48 hour waiting period may not appear to impose a significant burden on Maine women, such a waiting period would increase the medical risk, emotional stress, and financial cost of an abortion. This is especially true in a rural

state such as ours, where women often must travel great distances to receive services. If the Supreme Court upholds a similar waiting period statute in Pennsylvania, anti-choice forces in Maine could go to court and seek to have our waiting period law activated as early as this summer.

In addition to making our voices heard now, we need to make them heard in November. We have a golden opportunity to change the face of the legislature if we work at it. Think about what we want to accomplish, not just in the area of reproductive rights, but in the area of

continued next page

Facts on a Maine Freedom of Choice Act

What would the legislation do?

The purpose of the bill is to preserve current Maine law regarding the role of the State in a woman's personal decisions about her own pregnancy. The proposed legislation would continue the State's policy not to limit a woman's access to abortion except after viability. After viability, abortion would be allowed only if the mother's life were in danger. It would not change current Maine law requiring adult involvement in a minor's decision to have an abortion.

Why does the Legislature need to act?

The Supreme Court recently agreed to review Pennsylvania's restrictive abortion law. The court is not expected to overturn Roe this year, but it is expected to uphold Pennsylvania's 24-hour waiting period for abortion, among other provisions.

Maine has a similar law on its books, calling for a 48-hour waiting period. This law, enacted in 1979, was never enforced due to a court injunction. The

proposed legislation would have the effect of repealing this mandatory waiting period.

What will happen if the Legislature doesn't act?

If the Supreme Court upholds Pennsylvania's waiting period, Maine's waiting period could be triggered. The decision could come as soon as June of this year, and the anti-choice forces in Maine could petition the court here to lift the injunction immediately afterwards. Maine women could be faced with a 48-hour waiting period if the legislature doesn't act to effectively repeal the old law.

What's wrong with a 48-hour waiting period?

The federal court that barred enforcement of Maine's law found that a 48-hour waiting period may increase the medical risk, emotional stress, and financial cost of an abortion.

The court noted that the mandatory delay would: increase the risk of major complications by 20 to 30 percent each

week of delay; decrease access to services, especially among those in rural areas who have to travel long distances to receive services; and, burden those who have the least financial resources by increasing travel and other costs.

Finally, the court found that a 48-hour waiting period would not "induce any women to rethink their position" on having the abortion.

How do Maine people feel about this issue?

A 1989 poll conducted by the Family Planning Association of Maine showed that 82 percent of Maine citizens feel that abortion is a private issue between the woman, her family, and her doctors, and the government should not get involved.

(There is always a period between the time a woman learns she is pregnant and the time when she is able to schedule an appointment for an abortion. My question — "Isn't that a waiting period?") KH

From The Chair

A half-million march for reproductive freedom

by **ELEANOR GOLDBERG**
Chair, MWL Board

On April 5, along with 500,000 others, I participated in the March for Reproductive Freedom in Washington, D.C. Many of the people there were veterans of other pro-choice, civil rights, or anti-war demonstrations in the Capital. For me, however, it was a first. I have always been pro-choice, but have never been moved to attend a march in Washington before. Now, with the very real threat that Roe v. Wade will essentially be overturned when the Supreme Court rules on the Pennsylvania case, I wanted and needed to go.

It was exciting to be part of such a massive crowd that had gathered for one reason -- CHOICE -- and it was gratifying to see so many other Mainers. (Thanks to Chris Rusnov's great "Maine" banner, we were able to find each other.) The diversity of the people was impressive; the powerful and lively spirit was contagious; and the signs and slogans were

wonderful! "I am the Face of Pro-Choice America" was a personal favorite.

In listening to the morning's speakers, who included Barbara Mikulski from Maryland (one of only two women U.S. Senators), Bella Abzug, Barbara Boxer,

"We can and we must convert that rage into political action about choice and the other issues we care about"

Diane Feinstein, Geraldine Ferraro, and several other candidates for Congress, one major theme kept coming through loud and clear. With the probability that Roe v. Wade will no longer be the law of the land, it is urgent that we pass a national Freedom of Choice Act. It is critical that we pass one in Maine as well. In order to ensure such a bill's passage, we must elect legislators who are pro-choice. To ensure that a bill gets signed into law, we must elect a President who is pro-choice. In order to elect pro-choice candidates, each and every one of

us must get involved in the process. We have to support pro-choice candidates at the state level and nationally with our time and our money. It means we have to "Walk our Talk" by getting out the pro-choice vote and pro-choice voters.

1992 will be a watershed year. We have the opportunity and the responsibility to implement change by doing everything we can to elect legislators who support our views. The MWL is a non-partisan organization, and I am not endorsing a particular candidate, but I am urging you to be an active participant in the electoral process -- by working for the candidate of your choice, registering pro-choice supporters to vote, and volunteering for the state or local chapter of NOW, NARAL, or other organizations working to elect pro-choice legislators. I encourage you to be an informed voter. Find out everything you can about candidates, and don't be afraid to question them in detail about specific issues. In Maine, primary elections will be held on June 9. The importance of these primaries should not be underestimated. (A full list of candidates for the Maine legislature can be obtained from the Secretary of State's office.)

The 500,000 demonstrators in Washington represent a small portion of the pro-choice sentiment in this country. Our voices are getting louder each day. I have talked to many women who could formerly be described as having a lukewarm interest in politics and who are now enraged that our right to choose may be taken away. We can and we must convert that rage into political action about choice and the other issues we care about -- economic opportunity, health care, and education, to name a few. I hope that we in Maine will benefit from this renewed involvement in the political process.

"We won't go back!"

CHOICE COALITION

(CONTINUED)

health care and tax exemptions instead of budget cuts.

The Maine Women's Lobby belongs to three coalitions -- Consumers for Affordable Health Care, Taxpayers for a Fair Budget, and the Choice Coalition -- all of which put endless hours into fighting for a decent living for all Maine people. At the end of the fight, it comes down to the threat of the governor's veto. We need to eliminate that threat by securing a two-thirds majority in the legislature who understand the vision we have for Maine.

Economic recovery in this state and in the nation does not rest on getting moth-

ers off welfare. Rather, it rests on the understanding that women have valuable contributions to make but need child care, health insurance, flex-time, and adequate pay for making those contributions. We need to elect representatives who understand that and are willing to stand up to those who don't.

Our tasks during the next several years will be that much easier if we put in the effort we need now. Find out who's running in your district. Ask them where they stand on the issues that are important to you, and then support with your time and your money those candidates who share our vision. In November, vote and get your friends to vote and get their friends to vote. We can do it if we try, and there was never a better time to prove it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:**APRIL 24, 1992 —****"Take Back The Night March."**

Gather at Augusta waterfront park for rally at 7 p.m. and march at 8 p.m. Guest speaker: Senator Dale McCormick. For information call 626-3425. Sponsors: Maine Coalition Against Rape, Maine Coalition for Family Crisis Services. Local organizers: Augusta Area Rape Crisis, Family Violence Project.

MAY 28-29, 1992 —**"New England Institute on Women & Economic Development"**

At Sebasco Estates, Phippsburg, ME. Two-day program designed to nourish grassroots efforts to participate in and help shape changing local economy. Keynote address by Chris Weiss of the Ms. Foundation for Women. Jointly sponsored by Maine Displaced Homemakers Program and Ms. Foundation for Women. For information call Maine Displaced Homemakers Program, 621-3440.

MAY 1, 1992 —**"Empowering Girls"**

At Northern Maine Technical College, Presque Isle, ME. from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Professional development opportunity for men and women who work with girls. The workshop is designed to teach skills to help undo the effects of sexism, to increase self esteem, and to expand options. Sponsored by the National Coalition Building Institute. For information call 773-1394.

MAY —**Election**

An election will be held during May to fill two vacant seats on the Maine Women's Lobby Board of Directors. If you're interested in running, please call 622-0851.

JUNE 3 —**MWL Annual Meeting**

Maine Women's Lobby annual meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Family Planning Association office in Augusta.

MWL Launches Telephone Tree

BY BARBARA REINERTSEN
MWL Board Member

Late in the legislative session some of you were called and asked to participate in a phone tree to call your legislators on critical issues such as budget cuts, health insurance community rating, and freedom of choice on abortion. Thank you! Phone calls do make a difference. Elected officials listen to constituents who care enough about an issue to call or write.

We are now organizing a telephone tree, broken down systematically by Senate and House districts, that will include virtually all of our 900+ Lobby members. It's ambitious, but it needs to be done, as this example clearly shows. We can be sure that the issue of freedom of choice will come before state lawmakers, either in a regular or special session next year. We have opposition that knows how to light up the phones, and we need to show that the majority of Maine citizens support Freedom of Choice.

There's no reason for us to take second place to any group in organization or effectiveness in reaching our lawmakers. So if you're called to take part in the phone tree, please say yes.

This will make it work. When MWL Lobbyist Mary McPherson sees the need for lawmakers or the Governor to receive calls, she will tell the chair of the Legis-

lative Committee, currently Linda Wilcox, who will call two other Board members who have agreed to serve at the top of the tree -- Lee Longnecker and Ann Mitchell. These three will each contact eight Lobby members who have agreed to head phone trees in senate districts in which they live. These 24 Senate District heads (some of the 35 district have been grouped together) will call about six people each. For example, if there are six house districts in their senate district, they may call one person in each house district, who would then call six other people in their house district, etc. etc.

Calling your legislator is very easy. You will be given the name, phone number, a deadline for calling, and a brief message -- just a sentence or two. You will probably be asked to make these calls only a few times a year and to call no more than about six fellow Lobby members as part of the tree, but it's very important to get through to all six people so the tree doesn't break down. And remember to make the call yourself, in addition to passing the word along to other Lobby members!

Thank you to those who have already agreed to be part of the phone tree. If you'd like to take an active role in setting up the tree, or in heading up a district, please call me at 442-8022.

Thanks.

MWL/WDI Women's History Month POSTERS

ARE STILL AVAILABLE. SEND \$10 + \$2.50 for postage and handling to WDI, PO BOX 15, HALLOWELL, ME 04347



PRESENTS

Maine Women Artists.....

*May 17th to June 18th
at GALLERY HOUSE*

*Located at Holly Hill
3 miles north of Damariscotta and
5 miles south of Waldoboro on Route One*

*The Board of Directors of the Maine Women's Lobby and
GALLERY HOUSE invite you to meet the artists at a special
preview reception for Maine Women Artists*

Sunday afternoon, May 17, 1992 from 2 - 4 p.m.

at GALLERY HOUSE, Nobleboro, Maine

Donation \$20

*GALLERY HOUSE will donate one half of the profit from the
purchase of any art work bought during the
Maine Women Artists show*



Legislative Update

The following summarizes all the bills the Maine Women's Lobby actively lobbied or monitored during the second regular session of the 115th Legislature. The Lobby supported the following bills, unless otherwise noted.

BILLS PASSED

LD. 513 AA Requiring the Provision of Information to Victims of Gross Sexual Assault.

Sponsors: Rep. George Townsend of Eastport, Sen. Harry Vose of Washington.

Requires, upon request of the victim, HIV testing of an individual convicted of gross sexual assault. The victim will have access to counseling when the test results are disclosed. MWL position: Opposed, since such information is of little value to the victim and improperly uses resources that can instead support direct services to the victim.

**** L.D. 701 AA to Provide Community Rating of Health Insurance Providers.**

Sponsors: Rep. Charlene Rydell of Brunswick, Sen. Beverly Bustin of Kennebec, Rep. Harriet Ketover of Portland, Speaker John Martin of Eagle Lake.

Commercial, for-profit insurers will no longer be permitted to vary the health insurance premium rates based on health status, claims experience, or policy duration. Restrictions are placed on the percent of variation in rating based on age, gender, occupation or industry, and geographic area. The premium rate may not deviate (above or below) 50% of the base rate for that particular policy starting July 15, 1993. On July 15, 1994, the portion of this law which addresses these four variables (age, gender, etc.) will "sunset" (be repealed) unless the Legislature affirmatively decides to continue with the following schedule: a deviation of not more than 33% (above or below the rate filed) starting July 15, 1994; 20% starting July 15, 1995; 10% starting July 15, 1996; and, starting July 15, 1997, the premium rate must be the same as the base rate. This is known as "pure community rating." This means the policy must be offered to all subscribers at the same rate, regardless of the composition of the work force. This law affects groups with fewer than 25 employees and self-employed individuals.

It was initiated by the Consumers for Affordable Health Care coalition, of which the MWL is a partner member.

LD. 1643 AA to Protect Telephone Customer Privacy.

Sponsors: Rep. Herbert Adams of Portland, Rep. Hugh Morrison of Bangor, and Rep. Herbert Clark of Millinocket.

Allows telephone customers to "block" the dissemination of their telephone number on a call-by-call basis in areas of the state in which "Caller I.D." is offered to telephone customers. In addition, per-line blocking must be offered to individuals, agencies, and groups that submit a written request to the telephone utility asserting a specific need for per-line blocking for reasons of health and safety. The first per-line blocking and unblocking must be provided to subscribers without charge. This legislation is particularly important for battered women and volunteers who work with the domestic violence and rape crisis coalitions.

LD. 1834 AA Creating the Victim's Compensation Board.

Sponsors: Rep. Mary MacBride of Presque Isle, Sen. Donald Collins of Aroostook, Rep. John Richards of Hampden, and Rep. Andrew Ketterer of Madison.

Creates a new Victim's Compensation Board which will award compensation up to \$5,000 to victims of certain categories of crimes. Funds would be raised by adding an assessment to fines paid by individuals convicted of crimes: \$25 for felonies; \$10 for misdemeanors.

**** L.D. 2040 AA to Increase the Penalties for Committing Repeated Assault.**

Sponsors: Rep. Mary Cathcart of Orono, Sen. Muriel Holloway of Lincoln, Rep. John Richards of Hampden, and Rep. Patricia Stevens of Bangor.

Currently, assault is a Class D crime. This law increases the class level to a Class C crime if the perpetrator has been convicted of two or more domestic violence-related crimes, including violations of protective orders, in the past five years. A Class C crime is a felony and provides the potential for higher fines and longer jail sentences, and gives the prosecutor greater

leverage in negotiating bail conditions and probation. The assailant would also lose the right to carry firearms.

**** L.D. 2098 AA to Reform Unemployment Compensation Guidelines in Maine.**

Sponsors: Rep. Anne Rand of Portland, Rep. Edward McHenry of Madawaska.

A second method for calculating an employee's eligibility for unemployment compensation has been added. The Department of Labor will still calculate eligibility based on the first four of the last five completed calendar quarters, but will also use an alternative base period so that individuals with the required amount of earnings can qualify even if those wages were earned in the last completed quarter. This change would allow people to use more current earnings information. This will be beneficial to employees laid off after establishing a short wage history, including those absent from the work force because of pregnancy, child-rearing, or extensive illness. In addition, it ensures that individuals will not be denied unemployment benefits simply because the individual has enrolled in a degree-granting program, rather than another approved training program.

L.D. 2221 AA to Limit to the District Court the Authority to Issue Orders in Domestic Abuse Cases.

Sponsors: Rep. Francis Marsano of Belfast, Rep. John Richards of Hampden, and Sen. Pamela Cahill of Sagadahoc.

Permits Superior Courts to continue to grant a protective order to battered women, but requires that all protective orders be docketed in the District Court. The wording of this law ensures that women will be able to continue to have protective orders issued in Superior Court when a District Court Judge is unavailable. In addition, the law makes consistent the activities which can be enjoined by a temporary and permanent protective order.

L.D. 2381 Non-traditional Occupation Act

Sponsors: Rep. Anne Rand of Portland, Rep. Richard Ruhlin of Brewer, Rep. Marge Kilkelly of Wiscasset, and Sen. Donald Esty of Westbrook.

See article for summary of this Act.

**** L.D. 2436 AA Related to Periodic Justification of Departments and Agencies of State Government under the Maine Sunset Act.**

Reported by Representative Phyllis Erwin for the Joint Standing Committee on Audit and Program Review.

Under the current "sunset review" law, all state departments and agencies are required to submit justification reports on existing programs and services. A section of this law requires these departments to review participation in programs under

their jurisdiction to determine whether or not any inequity exists in services provided in the programs. They are also required to provide a list of employees, by gender, showing job classification and salary range, and promotions and layoffs in the preceding year according to gender.

**** Bills enacted by the Legislature, but not yet signed by the Governor.**

BILLS KILLED

L.D. 345 AA Relating to Surrogate Parenting.

Sponsors: Rep. Susan Dore of Auburn, Rep. Judy Paradis of Frenchville, Rep. Connie Cote of Auburn, Sen. Judy Kany of Kennebec.

Proposed to make surrogate parenting contracts (for pay) illegal and non-binding in Maine. MWL position: Neither for nor against.

L.D. 1800 AA Concerning Insurance Coverage for the Diagnosis and Treatment of the Disease of Infertility.

Sponsors: Sen. Nancy Clark of Cumberland, Rep. Elizabeth Mitchell of Vassalboro, Rep. Joe Garland of Bangor.

Proposed that all insurers must provide coverage for established, non-experimental treatment of gynecological or urological diseases related to infertility.

Joint Resolution on RU-486

A Joint Resolution Memorializing the President and the Congress of the United States to Support the Legal Availability of RU-486 for Appropriate Research and, If Indicated, Clinical Practice was unanimously passed in the Maine House and Senate on March 27, 1992.

The Resolution outlines positive uses of the drug, RU-486 (including promotion of normal delivery in childbirth, treatment for breast and brain cancer, gynecological malignancies, osteoporosis, and the safe termination of early pregnancy), states that "all American citizens are entitled to the best medical research and this drug may be the solution to many serious conditions affecting the nation's health," and urges the President and Congress to support the legal availability of RU-486.

The Lobby would like to thank the sponsors of the Resolution:

Senator Nancy Randall Clark, D-Cumberland
 Senator Pamela L. Cahill, R-Sagadahoc
 Representative Margaret Pruitt Clark, D-Brunswick
 Representative Francis Marsano, R-Belfast

I want to help improve the lives of Maine women and their families!

- ☐ Here's my \$25 for an individual membership
☐ I prefer to join at the level below:

REGULAR

- ☐ \$500 Life
☐ \$250 Sustaining
☐ \$100 Sponsoring
☐ \$ 50 Supporting
☐ \$ 25 Individual
☐ \$1-24 Other

PLEDGE

- ☐ Total annual pledge \$_____
 I prefer to pay:
 \$_____ monthly
 \$_____ every other month
 \$_____ quarterly
 \$_____ twice per year



P.O. Box 15, Hallowell Maine 04347

Name _____ Phone _____ Business _____

Address _____ Town _____ Zip _____

- ☐ I do not want my name given to other groups.

- ☐ I am already a member. Please use
 the enclosed contribution of \$_____ to
 advocate on behalf of Maine women
 and their families.

The Maine Women's Lobby is committed to representing women of all economic means.
 Any contribution you are able to make will entitle you to membership. Please make your check
 payable to: Maine Women's Lobby and return it with this card

THANK YOU and WELCOME!

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