

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

The bill was amended in the Senate (S-67) and the language changed to prohibit distribution of cigarettes or tobacco to children under 18. The current criminal code makes distribution to children under 16 a Class D crime, with requirement of proof beyond a reasonable doubt; under this amendment, there is a lesser standard of proof and a lesser fine.

548 AN ACT TO REINSTATE THE AUTHORITY OF THE DIVISION OF EYE CARE TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF ITS PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS PROGRAM Sen. Hichens OTP-ND LD 1123

SUMMARY: The bill re-established the Medical Eye Care Program in the Division of Eye Care; it had been removed from that division of the Department of Human Services by action of the Audit and Program Review Committee in 1981. Both educational and medical programs would have been in one place.

The Department agreed that the Medical Eye Care Program could be run equally well in either the Bureau of Rehabilitation or the Bureau of Health. In addition, they suggested a change in the visual acuity standards for receipt of medical eye services.

549 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ITEMIZED HOSPITAL BILLS TO MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES AND MEDICAID RECIPIENTS Sen. Najarian OTP-ND LD 1391

SUMMARY: The bill forbade the Department of Human Services from making payments to hospitals which did not provide itemized bills to Medicare and Medicaid patients. A similar bill before the Business Legislation Committee (LD 239) required hospitals to provide itemized bills to all patients.

After considerable discussion of the degree of itemization, costs incurred in providing these bills, the length of time after being in the hospital that a patient could request the itemized bill, the possibility of including the costs of nursing services, and when the patient should be informed of his or her rights to receive an itemized bill, the Committee decided on a new draft. (LD 239 was withdrawn.)

554 AN ACT TO REVISE THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE LAWS Sen. Carpenter OTP-ND LD 1764

SUMMARY: The bill was the product of discussions among the Maine Municipal Association, welfare directors, the Department of Human Services and other interested parties. It established new provisions, deleted old ones, and reorganized the statutes for greater clarity. Among the major provisions were new standards for denial of assistance after the first application, going beyond the previous sole criterion of need; allowing several towns to share a district office; lengthening the time before a hearing; requiring employers to release wage information; tightening "workfare" requirements.