

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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757 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT THE AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN PROGRAM PROMOTE FAMILY UNITY Rep. Brodeur LV/WD HSE-ACCP LV/WD SEN-ACCP LV/WD

SUMMARY: This bill, identical to one introduced in the 110th Legislature, would have allowed the Department of Human Services to grant AFDC assistance to families where one or both parents are unemployed.

DHS considered the cost of the bill too high, even when measured against possible savings in other programs.

758 AN ACT TO PROVIDE IMPROVED DENTAL CARE BY AMENDING THE DENTURIST LAW Rep. Brodeur LV/WD HSE-ACCP LV/WD SEN-ACCP LV/WD

SUMMARY: Current law allows the issuance of a license to denturists who pass an examination set by the Board of Dental Examiners. The bill would have allowed denturists to be licensed by meeting equivalent training and experience standards, which were defined in the bill. It also provided that no denturist would be denied a license because of prior practice of denture technology.

There was concern about the equivalency training, which is not offered in Maine, and the sanctioned prior illegal practice as denturists. Others questioned the original basis for encouraging the development of denturists, to provide lower-cost dentures, contending that reasonably-priced dentures were available.

759 AN ACT TO REMOVE THE SUNSET PROVISION FOR HOME HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN THE CERTIFICATE OF NEED LAW Rep. Brodeur MAJ-OTP MIN-ONTP HSE-ENACT. SEN-ENACT. GOV-SIGNED PL 83, c. 200

SUMMARY: The Certificate of Need Act, as amended in 1982, exempts from its provisions home health care services which were being offered by a home health care provider prior to 90 days after adjournment of the Second Regular Session, and all home health care providers, as of the effective date of a home health care provider licensing law.

This bill repealed the latter provision, meaning that home health care providers have to come under CON.

800 AN ACT TO AMEND THE ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES ACT Sen. Bustin OTP-ND ID 1562

SUMMARY: The bill added a new subchapter to the Adult Protective Services Act, providing for placement and therapeutic services for incapacitated and dependent adults who are not retarded. It required that these adults who received state funds should be assessed for the appropriate placement, and defined the levels of placement; the facilities providing higher levels of care would receive a higher reimbursement rate. The Department of Human Services would have a

training team to assist placement workers and the staff of approved facilities.

811 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PHYSICIANS TO REPORT TO THE BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE WHETHER OR NOT THEY ACCEPT MEDICARE ASSIGNMENTS Sen. Bustin OTP-ND LD 1742

SUMMARY: The bill required the Board of Registration in Medicine, as part of the biennial registration process, to ask physicians whether and under what circumstances they accepted Medicare assignment. The Board would then forward the information to the Department of Human Services, who would make the list available to the public.

The Board had concerns about making the compilation, and DHS was concerned about the cost. Advocates for Medicare patients preferred to have the information available, as a contribution to their own awareness of health care costs. Many people agreed the scope should be broadened beyond allopathic physicians.

814 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE RIGHTS OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS Sen. Perkins LV/WD HSE-ACCT LV/WD SEN-ACCT LV/WD

SUMMARY: The bill would have established a right for health care providers to require persons practising or providing professional services to carry medical malpractice insurance, without thereby increasing their own liability.

There was testimony that the bill was not needed, and that it could infringe on bargaining rights.

832 AN ACT TO RECODIFY THE STATUTES RELATING TO CORRECTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION (REPORTED PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAWS CHAPT. 439 OF THE 110TH LEGISLATURE) Rep. Manning OTP-A HSE-ENACT. SEN-ENACT. GOV-SIGNED PL 83, c. 459

SUMMARY: The bill divided the provisions of Title 34 into two new titles, 34-A for Corrections and 34-B for Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

It reorganized the previous provisions, clarified language, and removed obsolete references but did not make substantive policy changes.

The Committee Amendment (H-346) corrected printing errors in the bill, restored language which had been omitted by mistake, and incorporated all bills passed to that point of the session which affected Title 34 into the new titles.