

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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841 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A STATE Sen. Brown LV/WD  
ADMINISTERED PROGRAM OF HSE-ACCOPT LV/WD  
GENERAL ASSISTANCE SEN-ACCOPT LV/WD

SUMMARY: This bill, transferring administration of the General Assistance Program from the municipalities to the state, was heard and discussed together with the other bills affecting General Assistance: IDs 554, 842, 1135 and 1337.

842 AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE ADMINIS- Sen. Brown LV/WD  
TRATION OF THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE HSE-ACCOPT LV/WD  
PROGRAM SEN-ACCOPT LV/WD

SUMMARY: This bill made changes in the General Assistance program, such as establishing standardized applications and forms, having the Commissioner of Human Services establish minimum standards of need and eligibility, having fair hearings run by the state, providing workers' compensation coverage to recipients working in municipal work programs, and having DHS responsible for training, annual review of municipalities, and compliance.

It was heard and considered together with the other General Assistance bills: IDs 554, 841, 1135 and 1337.

844 AN ACT RELATING TO THE PRINCIPLES Sen. Gill LV/WD  
OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR INTERMEDIATE HSE-ACCOPT LV/WD  
CARE FACILITIES FOR THE MENTALLY SEN-ACCOPT LV/WD  
RETARDED

SUMMARY: The bill was introduced to deal with a financial problem for 2 group homes for the mentally retarded. Their Certificates of Need had been approved prior to the promulgation of new Principles of Reimbursement, and included reimbursement rates which did not cover the true costs of operations.

After several work sessions before the Committee, which included representatives of the 2 homes, and the Departments of Human Services and Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the issue was resolved administratively.

888 AN ACT RELATING TO PRISON VISITS Rep. Connolly MAJ-OTP-A  
MIN-ONTF  
HSE-ENACT.  
SEN-ENACT.  
GOV-SIGNED  
PL 83, c. 382

SUMMARY: The bill gave to inmates in the custody of the Department of Corrections a statutory right to have visits from relatives and friends.

The Committee Amendment (H-261) modified the visitation right to be an opportunity, in accordance with departmental and institutional policies, which could be affected by security considerations.