

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1182 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH INMATE
REPRESENTATION

Rep. Connolly

LV/WD
HSE-ACCPY LV/WD
SEN-ACCPY LV/WD

SUMMARY: This bill would have required the wardens of the state correctional facilities to inform inmates of their right to establish inmates' councils. The purpose of the council would be to inform inmates about their rights, to focus inmate discussions, to inform and make recommendations to the warden, and to serve as liaison between inmates and their families. The records of meetings would be kept in the facility, available to inmates and families. The councils would only be suspended by the Governor, in the case of a security emergency; they would be restored as soon as possible.

The Department of Corrections considered that they already had the power to establish inmate organizations, and therefore felt the bill was unnecessary.

It was withdrawn as part of an agreement among the Committee, the sponsors and the Department to evaluate the need for such a statutory requirement.

1183 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE
MEDICAL RADIATION HEALTH
AND SAFETY ACT

Rep. Manning

OTP-A
HSE-ENACT.
SEN-ENACT.
GOV-SIGNED
PL 83, c. 524

SUMMARY: The bill provided for the licensing of radiographers, nuclear medicine technologists and radiation therapy technologists and established the qualifications for licensure in each case, and established a Radiologic Technology Board to administer licensing within statutory provisions for maximum fees, temporary licensure, exemptions from licensure and penalties.

There was considerable discussion about: including chiropractors and their assistants and podiatrists within the scope of the bill; whether to grandfather people; a limitation on the number of times an applicant could take the licensure exam; the composition of the Board; and questions of equipment safety, operator training, and the supply and compensation of trained operators.

The Committee Amendment (H-389) clarified some definitions, including chiropractors and podiatrists within the meaning of "licensed practitioner," increased the number of Board members from 10 to 12, allowed the Governor to choose, rather than having to appoint, members from lists submitted by professional organizations, and added to the Board's duties a requirement to develop requirements for limited licensure and to submit a report on these requirements by April, 1984.

The Committee Amendment also modified the courses required as part of the licensure requirements and specified that a licensee could either pass the Board's examination, or have current national certification in their field.

A significant provision was the addition of the category of limited licensure, for those who would use ionizing radiation only for diagnostic purposes, but with identical requirements with respect to patient safety. Temporary licenses were also added, for those awaiting re-examination.

Finally, the amendment stipulated that fees gained from licensure applications would be used to pay the expenses of the Board and the administration of the program.

One Senate Amendment (S-207) corrected a couple of minor printing errors; it was identical to a House Amendment (H-395) which was not adopted.

1194	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENT FOR HOSPICE CARE PROGRAM	Sen. Bustin	LV/WD HSE-ACCP LV/WD SEN-ACCP LV/WD
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SUMMARY: The bill indicated the state's intent to support hospice care for terminally-ill individuals; this could be provided either through home or inpatient care. The bill would have required the Department of Human Services to provide reimbursement for services provided by facilities licensed as hospitals or nursing homes.

In addition, 3rd-party insurers would also have to make benefits for hospice care services available to their subscribers.

The major opposition to the bill came not from opposition to hospice care, but rather because of the bill's provisions for reimbursement to facilities; those opponents preferred greater emphasis on home-based programs, and the use of volunteers. Others expressed concern that the proposed reimbursement system would create a form of licensing, and so would inhibit the development of other hospice programs.

Because of the strong interest in the topic, all interested parties agreed to develop more legislation for the next session.

1236	AN ACT TO REQUIRE INTERDEPART- MENTAL COORDINATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES PLANNING	Rep. Brodeur	OTIP-ND ID 1668
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SUMMARY: A similar bill introduced in the 110th Legislature led to a further study by the Committee after the session, and then to directed efforts by the Departments of Human Services and Mental Health and Retardation, and the Division of Community Services, with the chief goal of providing more information on finance and planning to the Legislature earlier during the legislative and budgetary processes.

The bill established a timetable for the development of a Social Services Plan, through assessments of past programs, and preliminary recommendations for the next year, and public hearings on the plan by the Appropriations Committee and the Health and Institutional