

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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The bill was opposed by the Department of Human Services and low-income groups, because of the work being done on the other General Assistance bills, and also because of the difficulty of defining the term "luxury items."

It was considered together with the other general assistance bills (LDs 554, 841, 842 and 1135) and then withdrawn.

1353 AN ACT TO LIMIT FUTURE INCREASES IN THE COST OF HOSPITAL CARE IN MAINE Sen. Najarian OTP-ND LD 1737

**SUMMARY:** The Hospital Cost-Containment bill resulted from recommendations made by the Health Facilities Cost Review Board to develop a mandatory hospital prospective reimbursement system.

The bill established a Health Care Finance Commission to develop and oversee the system, set requirements for hospitals to meet, provided for regional development funds and required equity among payors.

It was discussed together with LDs 631 and 1174. The Committee supervised and directed the negotiations between the Department of Human Services and the Maine Hospital Association, which led to the new draft, LD 1737.

1358 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A STATE BOARD OF PRISON TERMS AND SUPERVISED RELEASE Rep. McHenry ONTP HSE-ACCP ONTP SEN-ACCP ONTP

**SUMMARY:** The bill would have created a State Board of Prison Terms, replacing the present State Parole Board, which would authorize release of eligible inmates after they had completed serving half of their sentence. The Board would also be able to add time to the release date, if the inmate had been guilty of misconduct while in prison. Inmates released into the community would be supervised by the Division of Probation and Parole in the Department of Corrections.

There was considerable opposition to the bill from District Attorneys, the Criminal Law Advisory Commission and current and former P & P officers. The Department of Corrections also expressed strong reservations.

After the hearing, the Committee voted to re-refer the bill to the Judiciary Committee, who then sent it back to the H & I S Committee. The Committee then voted it Ought Not to Pass.

1387 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE OF FOSTER PARENT ADVOCATE Sen. Wood LV/WD HSE-ACCP LV/WD SEN-ACCP LV/WD

**SUMMARY:** The bill would have provided funding for a staff person in the Department of Human Services to serve as an advocate on behalf of foster parents.