

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1455 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT SMOKING Rep. Dexter HSE-ENACT.
 IN JURY ROOMS SEN-ENACT.
 GOV-SIGNED
 PL 83, c. 226

SUMMARY: The new draft of LD 291, with a new title to make the intent clear, allowed smoking in jury rooms only if all present gave their consent.

1490 AN ACT ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY Sen. Gill LV/WD
 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES HSE-ACCP LV/WD
 SEN-ACCP LV/WD

SUMMARY: The bill would have established a requirement that the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation provide, or be responsible for assuring the development of, crisis intervention services in the community. These services would help those suffering acute episodes of mental illness, who do not require institutionalization.

The bill was withdrawn at the hearing, with an agreement that the issues it presented would be studied by a task force of the Bureau of Mental Health.

1494 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH RULES TO Rep. Diamond LV/WD
 MINIMIZE THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF HSE-ACCP LV/WD
 MONTHLY REPORTING AND RETROSPEC- SEN-ACCP LV/WD
 TIVE BUDGETING IN THE AID TO
 FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN
 AND FOOD STAMP PROGRAMS

SUMMARY: The bill would have required the Department of Human Services to make numerous changes in the administration of the AFDC program; some of these were a direct response to Federal changes necessitating monthly reporting of income by recipients, and retrospective budgeting.

It was given Leave to Withdraw without a public hearing. DHS had filed testimony stating that many of the provisions of the bill would lessen the Department's flexibility, and could also conflict with Federal requirements.

1501 AN ACT TO LIMIT PAYMENTS TO Sen. Bustin OTP-ND
 HEALTH CARE INSTITUTIONS WHICH ID 1728
 ENGAGE PERSONS TO DEFEAT THE
 ORGANIZATION OF COLLECTIVE
 BARGAINING UNITS

SUMMARY: The bill required health care institutions to report to the Department of Human Services amounts they had spent to influence their employees with respect to unionization. The Department would then reduce its Medicaid payment to the institution by an amount equal to that part of the money spent for what were determined to be prohibited practices; these labor practices were defined. There was a fine for not reporting to the Department, and the Commissioner of Human Services was authorized to adopt rules to implement the bill.