

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES  
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

LD:

497

AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST  
MEDICAID ELIGIBLE PERSONS WHO APPLY FOR  
ADMISSION TO NURSING HOMES

BERUBE  
NAJARIAN  
GILL  
MELENDY

LV-WD

HOUSE Accepted Committee Report  
SENATE Accepted Committee Report  
GOV

SUMMARY:

This bill proposed to address the issue of access to nursing homes by Medicaid eligible applicants. It would have required admissions to nursing homes to be made on a "first come-first served" basis. It also would have required that a single waiting list for all applicants be maintained without regard to source of payment and be available for inspection. After deliberation of the issue by the committee, the Department of Human Services agreed to amend their Maine Medical Assistance Manual and their regulations to indicate that providers may not discriminate against recipients based on the recipients source of payment. Nursing home regulations will also be amended to require each nursing home to have admission criteria, which may not include the source of payment, and that they must establish a waiting list for admissions which is available to the public. This bill was subsequently withdrawn.

LD:

524

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR LOCAL ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR  
NEEDY FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

ROLDE  
SPROUL  
DIAMOND G

LV-WD

HOUSE Accepted Committee Report  
SENATE Accepted Committee Report  
GOV

SUMMARY:

In 1983, the Legislature established the Emergency Assistance Program for Needy Families with Children to address the immediate needs of low-income families in crises. The program provides funds to assist families in need of basic necessities -- shelter, food, energy and eviction. This program has been administered by the central office of the Department of Human Services. Application forms are available at Department of Human Services Regional Offices, town offices and community action agencies. Maine's 12 designated community action agencies are currently assisting Emergency Assistance Program applicants in the process of applying for assistance under this program.

This bill would have required the department to contract with the community actions agencies for this program.