

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
115TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HUMAN RESOURCES**

AUGUST 1991

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
AUGUST 1991**

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees and Joint Select Committees of the Maine Legislature. The volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H - 584 or S - 222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

PUBLIC XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
P&S XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
RESOLVE XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
CON RES XXX	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
EMERGENCY	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
CARRIED OVER	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
LVWD	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
VETO SUSTAINED	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
UNSIGNED	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	<i>Action incomplete when 1st session ended</i>

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

LD 620 An Act to Require the State to Administer and Finance the General Assistance Program

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
FARREN	ONTP	
VOSE		
BAILEY H		
GRAY		

SUMMARY

The bill abolishes the current system of municipal general assistance and directs the Department of Human Services to administer a general assistance program through its regional offices. Emergency relief continues to be provided by municipalities but under rules set by the Department of Human Services. The bill gives full financial responsibility for general assistance and emergency assistance to the State.

LD 621 An Act Concerning the Administration of the General Assistance Program for Migrant Workers

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
FARREN	ONTP	
BAILEY H		
LOOK		
FOSTER		

SUMMARY

This bill addresses several areas of concern regarding eligibility of migrant workers for municipal general assistance. It extends the time period that municipalities have to respond to an application for general assistance to 72 hours for Maine residents and 5 days for residents of areas outside the State. It directs the Commissioner of Human Services to pursue agreements with other states and with Canada to promote information sharing. It also requires general assistance ordinances to include provisions for voluntary payback of benefits, and requires municipal overseers to pursue recovery of expenses through civil action when voluntary payback is not made and there is reason to believe that the recipient is able to repay. Responsibility for general assistance to migrant workers is placed with the Department of Human Services. The department is directed to institute repayment agreements with employers of migrant workers.

LD 625 An Act to Require Establishments That Sell Alcohol to Post Health Messages Concerning the Misuse of Alcohol

DIED BETWEEN BODIES

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BUSTIN	OTP-AM MAJ	
CLARK M	ONTP MIN	
PENDLETON		
CARPENTER		

SUMMARY

The bill requires establishments that sell alcoholic beverages to display a sign warning the public of the health dangers associated with alcohol.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-158) was reported by a majority of the committee. It corrects references in the bill to make them consistent with existing statutory definitions, adds the State's toll-free substance abuse clearinghouse number to the required signs, clarifies where the signs must be posted and reduces the penalty provided in the bill. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.