

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
115TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES

MAY 1992

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES**

**MAY 1992**

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 far right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

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

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, 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 857      An Act to Ensure Adequate Resources for Energy Assistance Programs for Low-income Households**

**PUBLIC 858  
EMERGENCY**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
BRANNIGAN  
PARADIS P  
GILL

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
S-616

**SUMMARY**

This bill provides funds for existing weatherization and other energy efficiency programs and for financial assistance to low-income and elderly households for energy costs.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-616) replaces the original bill. The amendment establishes the Fuel Assistance Reserve Fund. If money is appropriated to the fund, it may be used only to advance fuel assistance payments that will be returned to the fund when federal funds are received. The amendment also removes the emergency preamble and clause and adds a fiscal note.

**LD 890      An Act to Enable the Department of Human Services to Have a Presence in Every County through Enhanced Administrative Flexibility**

**P & S 120**

**SPONSOR(S)**  
KILKELLY  
MANNING  
HOLLOWAY  
SPEAR

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-1334 KILKELLY  
H-884

**SUMMARY**

This bill requires that an office or itinerant worker from the Department of Human Services be available in each county on a regular biweekly basis to assist people applying for benefits or seeking information on services offered by the department.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-884) replaces the original bill. The amendment repeals Resolve 1975, chapter 54, which requires the Department of Human Services to maintain an office in Belfast, thereby giving the Department of Human Services greater flexibility in allocating its regional resources. The amendment states that the Legislature's intent is for the department to use the flexibility to provide intake services in each county in the most cost-effective manner.

House Amendment "A" (H-1334) replaces Committee Amendment "A." Resolve 1975, chapter 54 is not repealed, and provisions are made for offices in Lincoln and Oxford counties. The Lincoln and Oxford offices are contingent upon office space being provided at no charge to the Department of Human Services. The amendment requires the department to report to the Legislature by November 1, 1993 concerning its presence in each county. The amendment also adds a provision authorizing the Department of Human Services to transfer up to \$100,000 of unexpended funds in fiscal year 1992 to contract for outstationing of eligibility workers in accordance with the federal Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act of 1990.