

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HUMAN RESOURCES

JULY 1993

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**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

JULY 1993

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.

The committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. 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:

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

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

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LD 314 **An Act Regarding Parental Resources in Medicaid Eligibility Determinations for Certain Children's Services** ONTP

SPONSOR(S) BUSTIN PARADIS J	COMMITTEE REPORT ONTP	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
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SUMMARY

Currently, parents whose children require high levels of care but whose incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid must impoverish themselves to become eligible. This bill directs the Department of Human Services to seek an amendment to the state Medicaid plan to exclude parental resources and income when making Medicaid eligibility decisions for home-based and community-based services for children who, in the absence of home-based and community-based services, require institutional care. This provides an incentive to families to support their children at home, rather than placing them in institutional settings.

See also LD 346.

LD 319 **An Act to Foster Family Self-sufficiency** ONTP

SPONSOR(S) BRENNAN	COMMITTEE REPORT ONTP	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
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SUMMARY

This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services for family self-sufficiency programs operated by public housing authorities.

LD 320 **An Act to Extend the Reporting Date of the Task Force on Mental Health Education and Licensure** PUBLIC 12
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S) GEAN PARADIS J	COMMITTEE REPORT OTP	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
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SUMMARY

This bill extends the reporting deadline of the Task Force on Mental Health Education and Licensure from February 1, 1993 to May 1, 1993.

LD 329 **An Act Regarding Certain Property of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation** DIED BETWEEN
BODIES

SPONSOR(S) FITZPATRICK	COMMITTEE REPORT OTP-AM	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED H-389
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SUMMARY

This bill allows the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to sell or lease surplus property at the mental health facilities. The bill requires that all proceeds accrue to an interest-bearing fund to support services to people served by the Department, including planning and construction of mental health facilities and transition services.

Amendment H-389 clarifies that the bill affects people with mental illness and people with mental retardation in the same way and clarifies what the proceeds from the sale of property may be used for. It also changes the effective date of the new provisions to January 1, 1994, since the bill is not an emergency measure. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 338 An Act to Require the Department of Human Services to ONTP
Provide Hepatitis Vaccines for Volunteer Firefighters

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
ZIRNKILTON	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Human Services to provide hepatitis vaccine to municipalities to immunize volunteer firefighters.

LD 342 An Act to Ensure Equal Medicaid Coverage for Hearing Aids ONTP
to Boarding Home Residents

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MURPHY BUSTIN	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Human Services to apply the same eligibility standards and level of reimbursement for hearing aids for boarding home residents as apply to nursing home residents.

LD 346 An Act to Enable Parents of Children with Mental Illness P & S 40
to Care for Their Children at Home

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
DONNELLY PARADIS J	OTP-AM	H-426

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Human Services to seek federal approval to disregard parental resources when making Medicaid eligibility determinations for home-based services for children with mental illness who, in the absence of home-based services, would be institutionalized and ultimately become eligible for Medicaid because of the high cost of institutionalization.

Amendment H-426 replaces the original bill. It directs the Department of Human Services to expand the so-called Katie Beckett waiver to include children with mental illness, achieving the bill's original intent for the limited number of children who will qualify for the waiver program. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.