

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

JULY 1997

MEMBERS:

Sen. Judy Paradis, Chair

Sen. Susan W. Longley

Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell

Rep. J. Elizabeth Mitchell, Chair

Rep. Joseph E. Brooks

Rep. Elaine Fuller

Rep. Thomas J. Kane

Rep. Wendy Pieh

Rep. Michael W. Quint

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Rep. Jeffery G. Joyner

Rep. Tarren R. Bragdon

Rep. Lois A. Snowe-Mello

Staff:

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Maine State Legislature

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
August 1997**

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet (www.state.me.us/legis/opla).

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

- CARRIED OVER*.....*Bill carried over to Second Regular Session*
- CON RES XXX*.....*Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses*
- CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....*Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died*
- DIED BETWEEN BODIES*.....*House & Senate disagree; bill died*
- DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....*One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill*
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....*Action incomplete when session ended; bill died*
- EMERGENCY*.....*Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days*
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....*Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote*
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....*Bill failed to get majority vote*
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*.....*Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote*
- INDEF PP*.....*Bill Indefinitely Postponed*
- ONTP*.....*Ought Not To Pass report accepted*
- OTP ND*.....*Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft*
- OTP ND/NT*.....*Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title*
- P&S XXX*.....*Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law*
- PUBLIC XXX*.....*Chapter # of enacted Public Law*
- RESOLVE XXX*.....*Chapter # of finally passed Resolve*
- UNSIGNED*.....*Bill held by Governor*
- VETO SUSTAINED*.....*Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto*

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 26, 1997 and September 19, 1997 for the First Special Session.

David E. Boulter, Director

Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

An Act to Clarify the Responsibilities of the Institute Councils of the Augusta Mental Health Institute and the Bangor Mental Health Institute

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MARVIN MITCHELL B	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-585
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LD 1326 proposed to establish boards of directors for the Augusta Mental Health Institute and the Bangor Mental Health Institute to work with the institute councils and to oversee the institutes, including the institutes' systems for assessing and improving the quality of care, management of risk and liability and safety plans.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-585) proposed to replace the bill. It would change the title and clarify and add to the responsibilities of the mental institute quality improvement councils established by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, giving them evaluation and advice functions resembling those of boards of directors. It would clarify the duties of the 7 area quality improvement councils and add a fiscal note.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 365, comprises the provisions of the Committee Amendment. It clarifies the duties of the state mental health institute quality improvement councils and the 7 other area councils.

LD 1348 **Resolve, to Direct the Department of Human Services to Include Vouchers for Personal Hygiene Products with Food Stamps** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GERRY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1348 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to administer, with the food stamp program, a voucher system for the purchase of personal hygiene products, such as laundry soap and toothpaste.

LD 1364 **An Act to Establish Ratios for Direct-care Providers to Nursing Home Residents** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BAKER C	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1364 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to establish the specific ratios for direct care nursing staff to patients in nursing facilities.

See also LD 1133, Resolves 1997, chapter 34, directing the Department of Human Services to convene a task force on minimum staffing levels in nursing facilities.