

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

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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

LD 1584

An Act Regarding Confidentiality of Information Concerning Residents of Certain Facilities

PUBLIC 342

Sponsor(s)
WINN

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-412

LD 1584 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to require residential care facilities, congregate housing services programs, drug treatment centers and children's homes to develop policies for releasing nontreatment information about residents to guardians and certain public agencies modeled on confidentiality policies developed by the department. The bill would have required the Interdepartmental Council to develop a plan for the informal exchange of information about children receiving residential services.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-412) proposed to require that the Department of Human Services to establish by rule confidentiality guidelines for releasing nontreatment information about minor residents in residential care facilities, congregate housing, drug treatment centers and children's homes to law enforcement agencies, schools, parents, guardians or other appropriate public agencies. The amendment would add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 342 comprises the provisions of the Committee Amendment. It directs the Department of Human Services to adopt model confidentiality guidelines regarding information on minor residents of residential care facilities, congregate housing, drug treatment centers and children's homes.

LD 1585

An Act to Provide Additional Adoption Assistance to State Employees

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)
SPEAR

Committee Report

Amendments Adopted

LD 1585 proposes to establish an additional adoption assistance program for employees of this State who adopt children. Benefits are proposed to be limited to actual costs of adoption, including but not limited to medical costs not covered by insurance, fees of licensed adoption agencies, fees for the court process and attorneys and fees for investigations. The bill was carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 118th Legislature.

LD 1620

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Intervenor Status for Foster Parents in Certain Cases of the Department of Human Services

PUBLIC 343

Sponsor(s)
MCALEVEY
MITCHELL B

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-411

LD 1620 proposed to change the requirement for becoming an intervenor in child protection proceeding for foster parents by decreasing the requirement of having the child in the foster parent's home from one year to 90 days.