

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
118TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
AND
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MAY 1998

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Susan W. Longley
Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell

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ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
May 1998

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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:

- 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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

LD 2118

An Act to Increase Economic Security for the State's Low-income Children and Families and Prevent Additional Costs to Municipalities

INDEF PP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| RAND MITCHELL J | OTP-AM | |

LD 2118 proposed to increase the amount of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families by increasing the standard of need and the maximum payment for families by an amount equal to 5%.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-497) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to add an emergency preamble and an emergency clause. It proposed to require an increase in benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF) by 5% of the benefit amount in effect on January 1, 1998, while disallowing the increase for households receiving the earned income disregard. The increase would not have affected households receiving the special housing allowance continuously from June 1, 1998. Eligibility would have been determined for new applicants for TANF using the gross income pretest in effect on January 1, 1998. The amendment also proposed to add an appropriation, an allocation and a fiscal note to the bill.

See also LD 1950, Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part A-1.

LD 2133

An Act to Establish and Maintain an Immunization Information System

PUBLIC 670

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MITCHELL J | OTP-AM | H-1021 |

LD 2133 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services, no later than January 1, 1999, to establish an immunization information system. As part of this system, the department would require all immunization providers to submit to the department a record of each immunization administered.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-102) proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to establish an immunization information system. It proposed to allow persons to choose not to be included in the system. It proposed to require rulemaking regarding the opt-out process, confidentiality, penalties for unauthorized disclosure, immunity for good-faith disclosure, data transmission and department access to information on those persons who have chosen not to be included in the system in order to control an outbreak of a disease preventable by immunization. It proposed to delay implementation of the immunization information system until the receipt of federal funds and add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 670 comprises the provisions of the bill and Committee Amendment "A". It directs the Department of Human Services to establish an immunization information system and requires immunization providers to provide information to the department. It allows persons to choose not to be included in the system. It requires rulemaking regarding the opt-out process, confidentiality, penalties for unauthorized disclosure, immunity