

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
BANKING AND INSURANCE**

JULY 1999

MEMBERS:

Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III, Chair

Sen. Neria R. Douglass.

Sen. I. Joel Abromson

Rep. Jane W. Saxl, Chair

Rep. Christopher P. O'Neil

Rep. Joseph C. Perry

Rep. Benjamin F. Dudley

Rep. John G. Richardson, Jr.

Rep. Nancy B. Sullivan.

Rep. Arthur F. Mayo III

Rep. Sumner A. Jones, Jr.

Rep. Kevin J. Glynn

Rep. Robert W. Nutting

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees
August 1999

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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:

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
ENACTMENT FAILED..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
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 September 18, 1999.

Joint Standing Committee on Banking and Insurance

LD 2

An Act to Clarify the Application of Insurance Fraud Prevention Laws

**PUBLIC 5
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAFOUNTAIN		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2 proposed to clarify the definition of insurer under the insurance fraud prevention laws to ensure that authorized insurance companies fall within the definition. The bill applies this change retroactively to the effective date of enactment of the definition in Public Law 1997, chapter 675.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 5 clarifies the definition of insurer under the insurance fraud prevention laws to ensure that authorized insurance companies fall within the definition. The law applies the change retroactively to June 30, 1998.

LD 32

An Act to Allow Reimbursement of Registered Nurse First Assistants for Surgical Procedures

PUBLIC 412

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BROOKS GOLDTHWAIT		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-649 S-343 MURRAY
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LD 32 proposed to establish a process for registered nurses to become certified as registered nurse first assistants. It also proposed to require health insurance policies, health care services plans and other contracts that provide for the payment for surgical assistants to pay registered nurse first assistants for surgical assisting performed.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-649) replaced the bill. It proposed to require individual and group health insurance policies, health care services plans and other contracts that provide for the payment of surgical assistants to pay registered nurse first assistants for surgical assisting performed. The amendment also added a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-343) was presented on behalf of the Committee on Bills in the Second Reading to correct a section number designation to avoid a conflict with Public Law 1999, chapter 256, Part Q, section 2.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 412 requires individual and group health insurance policies, health care services plans and any other contracts that provide for the payment of surgical assistants to pay registered nurse first assistants for the surgical assisting performed.

The law applies to all individual and group health insurance policies, health care services plans and other contracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2000.