

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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

**JULY 1999**

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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](http://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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> COTE PARADIS	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-273
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LD 80 proposed to allow a foster parent to be present when the Department of Human Services meets with the foster parent's foster child.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-273)** proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to change the title, insert departmental discretion into the provision on foster parents attending meetings between the Department of Human Services and the children and add a provision allowing, until July 1, 2000, foster parents, preadoptive parents and relatives providing care for children to attend reviews and hearings under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 4005-C unless specifically excluded by decision of the judge. It proposed to require reports to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on December 31, 1999 and December 31, 2000. See also LD 107.

#### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 189 changes the title, inserts departmental discretion into the provision on foster parents attending meetings between the Department of Human Services and the children and adds a provision allowing, until July 1, 2000, foster parents, preadoptive parents and relatives providing care for children to attend reviews and hearings under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 4005-C unless specifically excluded by decision of the judge. It requires reports to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on December 31, 1999 and December 31, 2000. See also LD 107.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> BROOKS ABROMSON	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-38
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LD 95 proposed to direct the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to undertake a study of the needs of the elderly population with mental retardation and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2000.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-38)** proposed to require the study of the needs of the elderly population with mental retardation to include input from consumers and advocates for consumers.

#### *Enacted law summary*

Resolve 1999, chapter 7 directs the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to undertake a study of the needs of the elderly population with mental retardation and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2000. The study must include input from consumers and advocates for consumers.