

# 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.

LD 241

**An Act to Ensure that Autopsies and Toxicology Tests are Performed on Commercial Drivers Killed in the Course of Employment**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NUTTING J CHIZMAR	ONTP	

LD 241 proposed to add commercial motor vehicle drivers who die during motor vehicle accidents that occur during the driver's scope of employment to the list of medical examiner cases for autopsy. The bill proposed to require the medical examiner to perform an autopsy and conduct toxicology tests on those commercial vehicle drivers.

**LD 256**

**An Act to Enhance the Health of Maine Citizens by Improving Community Health Programs**

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER PENDLETON		

LD 256 proposes to expand the responsibilities of the Maine Center for Public Health Practice to include evaluation of the health of Maine residents and the quality and effectiveness of health care and health programs and to require the center to make recommendations to improve the health of Maine residents and their access to health care and health programs.

This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature.

LD 257

**An Act Regarding General Assistance**

PUBLIC 45

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GLYNN AMERO	OTP-AM	H-45

LD 257 proposed to increase from 110% to 140% of the applicable existing housing fair market rents, as established by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, the maximum aggregate level of assistance in the municipal ordinance requirements of the general assistance program.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-45)** proposed to replace the bill, change the bill title, and allow municipalities to provide emergency assistance under the general assistance program when an emergency is imminent and failure to respond may result in undue hardship and unnecessary costs.

*Enacted law summary*