

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).

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 305

An Act to Provide Health Care Coverage to Certain Child Care Providers

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POWERS	ONTP	

LD 305 proposed to make the State Employee Health Plan available to a person providing child care for one or more children when payment for the care is provided by the Department of Human Services. It proposed to require the department to pay the premiums for the health coverage.

LD 332

An Act to Increase the Availability of Prescription Drugs for the State's Elderly

P & S 53

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KANE PARADIS	OTP-AM	H-657 S-432 MICHAUD

LD 332 proposed to expand the elderly low-cost drug program to cover those who meet the age and disability requirements and whose income is less than or equal to 185% of the federal poverty level. The current income limitation is approximately 131% of the federal poverty level. The bill proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to seek a Medicaid waiver from the federal Health Care Financing Administration to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits for persons 62 years of age and over whose income is less than or equal to 185% of the federal poverty level. See also LD 1203 and Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part KKK and Public Law 1999, chapter 531, Part F.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-657) proposed to require the Department of Human Services to apply for a waiver to provide Medicaid prescription drug benefits to the elderly and disabled up to 185% of the federal poverty line, beginning January 1, 2000 or as soon thereafter as possible.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-432) proposed to replace the bill and direct the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services to adopt rules for the elderly low-cost drug program to allow consideration of an applicant's change in income from the previous year when the applicant has documentation of a substantial change in circumstances that alters the applicant's income by more than 10%.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 53 directs the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Revenue Services to adopt rules for the elderly low-cost drug program to allow consideration of an applicant's change in income from the previous year when the applicant has documentation of a substantial change in circumstances that alters the applicant's income by more than 10%.