

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 428

Resolve, to Ensure the Delivery of Medicare and Medicaid Benefits

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
GLYNN

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 428 proposed to require the Commissioner of Human Services to report on the status of efforts to correct Year 2000 information system problems within the department. See also LD 2242.

LD 435

An Act to Include the Supporting Statistical Data in Mercury Warnings Relating to the Consumption of Fish

ONTP

Sponsor(s)
PERKINS

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 435 proposed to require that a fish consumption advisory based on a threat to public health from the presence of mercury in fish contain information on the data that support the advisory.

LD 442

Resolve, to Create a Study Group Regarding Pharmaceutical Guidelines for Geriatric Residents in Long-term Care Settings

RESOLVE 3

Sponsor(s)
COWGER
GOLDTHWAIT

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-24

LD 442 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to form a study group to develop guidelines for the use of pharmaceuticals to treat geriatric patients.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-24) proposed to remove reference to development of the pharmaceutical guidelines, add consumers and advocates for consumers to the study group membership, clarify that they are voluntary guidelines and add to the duties of the study group review of strategies for encouraging the use of the voluntary guidelines by health care providers.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 3 directs the Department of Human Services to form a study group to review and recommend voluntary guidelines for the use of pharmaceuticals to treat geriatric patients, adds consumers and advocates for consumers to the study group membership, and adds to the duties of the study group review of strategies for encouraging the use of the voluntary guidelines by health care providers.