

# 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.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1999, chapter 31 requires the Department of Human Services to undertake a historical study of persons with chronic medical conditions and their qualification and disqualification under the Medical Eligibility Determination Assessment procedure. The department is required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 31, 1999. The committee is authorized to report out legislation as a result of the report.

Chapter 31 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 17, 1999.

**LD 1065**

**An Act to Increase Fines for Long-term Care Facilities that Fail to Provide Quality Care to Residents**

**PUBLIC 99**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PINGREE LOVETT	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-31
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LD 1065 proposed to double the fines that the Department of Human Services may impose on long-term care facilities that the State has determined should be sanctioned because of lack of compliance with state rules and establish a minimum fine of \$500 for operating without a license. It also proposed to require that the department make information on the health and safety records of long-term care facilities readily available to citizens of the State by publishing the names of those facilities cited for deficiencies.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-31)** proposed to clarify that penalties may be imposed for operating without a license or for other violations of Title 22, chapter 1666-B. It proposed to delete the provision that would have required the Department of Human Services to publish lists of long-term care facilities cited for significant deficiencies.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 99 doubles the fines that the Department of Human Services may impose on long-term care facilities that the State has determined should be sanctioned because of lack of compliance with state rules and establishes a minimum fine of \$500 for operating without a license. It clarifies that penalties may be imposed for operating without a license or for other violations of Title 22, chapter 1666-B.

**LD 1084**

**An Act to Create a Monitoring Program in the Department of Human Services**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PLOWMAN	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1084 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to establish a monitoring system for telephone and personal interviews with clients of the department. The bill proposed to require telephone calls subject to the monitoring system be made on compatible equipment and interviews to be conducted in compatible locations.