

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

Staff:
Jane Orbeton, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*

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Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

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 1229 proposed to require the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to adopt rules by January 1, 2000 regarding community mental health services. The bill proposed to require contracts to separate fixed-amount grant funds from Medicaid reimbursement funds, which would vary with the amount of services rendered by the mental health services provider.

LD 1270 **An Act to Provide Child Care Subsidies for Families Who Lose Coverage under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program** **PUBLIC 383**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PARADIS		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1270 proposed to authorize the Department of Human Services to provide transitional child care services to families who elect to discontinue receiving TANF benefits but who have earned income. See Part 2 budget, Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part A-4.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Human Services.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 383 authorizes the Department of Human Services to provide transitional child care services to families who elect to discontinue receiving TANF benefits but who have earned income.

LD 1283 **An Act to Expand Access to the Elderly Low-cost Drug Program** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> STANWOOD		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1283 proposed to lower the eligibility requirements for the elderly low-cost drug program to allow a household that spends at least 25% of its income on prescription drugs to participate in the program. See also Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part KKK and chapter 531, Part F.

LD 1290 **An Act to Create the Position of Ombudsman in the Department of Human Services** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PLOWMAN		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1290 proposes to create the Office of Human Services Ombudsman, an autonomous agency designed to represent the best interests of individuals involved in matters in the Department of Human Services and to provide independent clinical oversight for cases in the Department of Human Services.