

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 1950

An Act to Change the Membership of the Medicaid Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors of the Maine Health Data Organization

ONTP

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

LD 1950 proposed to amend the membership of the Board of Directors of the Maine Health Data Organization to include a pharmacist member. A pharmacist would be required to be registered in the State and also practicing pharmacy in the State to be eligible to serve as a member on the board. The bill proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to include a pharmacist member on the Medicaid Advisory Committee and to report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 15, 2000.

LD 1952

An Act to Simplify the Process of Determining the Eligibility of Homeless Persons for General Assistance

CARRIED OVER

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

Under current law, when a person in a homeless shelter applies for general assistance, there is a certain level of fact-finding that has to occur to determine which municipality is administratively and financially responsible for that person's general assistance. This bill proposes to make the municipality where the shelter is located the municipality of administrative responsibility and require the Department of Human Services to reimburse that municipality for 100% of the general assistance provided to the local homeless shelter. The department's responsibility to provide 100% reimbursement would be limited to the recipient's first 45 consecutive days in the institution. The bill also proposes to clarify that hotels, motels or rooming houses would be considered to be homeless shelters when the municipality places applicants in transient housing facilities because no permanent housing for the applicant is available. Finally, this bill proposes to clarify that any general assistance provided by a municipality that is reimbursed 100% by the department would not be counted as net general assistance for the purpose of calculating the level of non-100% reimbursement that is provided the municipality by the department.

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

LD 1955

An Act Regarding Youth Residence Laws

ONTP

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

LD 1955 proposed to establish the Department of Human Services as the agency responsible for studying, planning for and creating services for runaway and homeless youth. The services would have sought to address needs of youth who are without families, who may be exploited, who suffer greater health, mental health and educational problems than the general population and who have less access to appropriate services. The bill proposed to develop a system of coordinated services for runaway and homeless youth through street outreach,