

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Health and Human Services*

July 2003

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Sen. John L. Martin
Sen. Carol Weston*

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Maine State Legislature



Office Of Policy And Legal Analysis Office Of Fiscal And Program Review

121st Maine Legislature First Regular Session

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing and joint 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 committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the committees. It is arranged alphabetically by committee name 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:

<i>CARRIED OVER PURSUANT TO HP 1212</i>	<i>Bills carried over to the 2nd Regular Session</i>
<i>CON RES XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
<i>CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE</i>	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED BETWEEN BODIES</i>	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
<i>DIED IN CONCURRENCE</i>	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</i>
<i>DIED ON ADJOURNMENT</i>	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
<i>EMERGENCY</i>	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
<i>FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</i>	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
<i>FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT</i>	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY</i>	<i>Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died</i>
<i>INDEF PP</i>	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
<i>ONTP</i>	<i>Ought Not To Pass report accepted</i>
<i>OTP-ND</i>	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>P&S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
<i>PASSED</i>	<i>Joint Order passed in both bodies</i>
<i>PUBLIC XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
<i>RESOLVE XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of finally passed Resolve</i>
<i>UNSIGNED</i>	<i>Bill held by Governor</i>
<i>VETO SUSTAINED</i>	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>

Please note that the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is September 13, 2003.

David C. Elliott, Director
Offices located in Room 215 of the Cross Office Building

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

LD 58

Resolve, to Expand the Choices of People Seeking Mental Health Therapy Under the MaineCare Program

RESOLVE 57

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER CATHCART	OTP-AM	H-444

LD 58 proposed to provide for direct reimbursement under the MaineCare program for licensed clinical social workers, licensed clinical professional counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists providing mental health services independent of agencies to MaineCare enrollees. The resolve proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to adopt rules to increase the reimbursement rate for these professionals to \$50 per one-hour unit of professional mental health treatment.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-444) proposed to authorize the establishment of a demonstration project to permit a limited number of licensed clinical social workers, licensed clinical professional counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists to directly bill the Department of Human Services for mental health treatment provided to MaineCare members. The amendment proposed to require the demonstration project to be budget-neutral and prohibit it from interfering in the relationships between MaineCare members and their mental health providers. The amendment proposed to add reporting dates of January 15, 2004 and October 30, 2004.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2003, chapter 57 authorizes the establishment of a demonstration project to permit a limited number of licensed clinical social workers, licensed clinical professional counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists to directly bill the Department of Human Services for mental health treatment provided to MaineCare members. The resolve requires the demonstration project to be budget-neutral and prohibits it from interfering in the relationships between MaineCare members and their mental health providers. The resolve requires reporting by January 15, 2004 and October 30, 2004.

LD 59

An Act to Adjust MaineCare Reimbursement Rates

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAVERRIERE-BOUCHER		

LD 59 proposes to direct the Department of Human Services to adopt rules to raise reimbursement rates for health care professionals in the MaineCare program by 20% the rates in effect on January 1, 2003, subject to a cap at the usual and customary rates in effect on January 1, 2003.