

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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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 619

An Act Making Substantive and Technical Changes to the General Assistance Laws

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ROTUNDO		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 619 proposed to make changes to the municipal general assistance laws in order to facilitate administration of and access to the program. Specifically, the bill proposed to make the following changes:

1. Clarify that information could be disclosed to law enforcement officers, emergency respondents or municipal officials who were acting in an official capacity while maintaining confidentiality.
2. Clarify provisions of law regarding residency and municipal responsibility.
3. Clarify provisions of law regarding funerals, burial and cremation of general assistance recipients.
4. Remove the standard of "knowingly and willfully" from the false representation statutes.
5. Clarify forfeiture and reduction of benefits.
6. Expand the definition of legally liable spouses and parents.
7. Create a claimant's right to request rescheduling of a fair hearing if just cause for failure to appear is established.

LD 622

Resolve, To Establish a Committee To Examine the Cost-effectiveness of the State Long-term Care Assessment System

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DUDLEY MARTIN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 622 was a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This resolve proposed to create a mechanism to examine the State's long-term care assessment system. A committee formed pursuant to this resolve would include all stakeholders, such as Legislators, consumers, institutional providers and community providers. The Legislators would be appointed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, and the other members would be appointed by the Governor. The committee would be required to study the overlapping federal and state Medicaid eligibility tools, requirements regarding eligibility to perform assessments and the information provided to those who are considered ineligible for long-term care.

The bill proposed that the Commissioner report to the Second Regular Session of the 121st Legislature legislation that forces the current assessment system to be more efficient.