

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Judiciary*

July 2003

Members:

Sen. Peggy A. Pendleton, Chair

Sen. Mary R. Cathcart

Sen. Chandler E. Woodcock

Rep. William S. Norbert, Chair

Rep. Thomas D. Bull

Rep. Deborah L. Simpson

Rep. Stan Gerzofsky

Rep. Philip R. Bennett, Jr.

Rep. Janet T. Mills

Rep. Roger L. Sherman

Rep. Roderick W. Carr

Rep. Brian M. Duprey

Rep. Joan Bryant-Deschenes

Rep. Donna M. Loring

Staff:

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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 Judiciary

LD 720

An Act To Protect Health Care Workers Who Report Medical Errors

PUBLIC 306

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> NORBERT		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-396
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LD 720 proposed to protect health care workers who report medical errors to their employers, a patient or a public body.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-396) proposed to clarify 2 aspects of the extension of the Whistleblowers' Protection Act to employees of a health care provider, health care practitioner or health care entity. First, the report by the health care worker must be consistent with state and federal privacy laws. Second, the report may be made to the employer, the patient involved or the appropriate authority that licenses, regulates or credentials the employer. The amendment also proposed to require the Department of Labor to include this change in the next printing of the department's regulation of employment poster.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 306 amends the Whistleblowers' Protection Act to include health care workers who report medical errors to their employers, a patient or the licensing or credentialing authority. The report by the health care worker must be consistent with state and federal privacy laws.

LD 731

An Act Regarding Case Management Officers

PUBLIC 39

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> NORBERT		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 731 proposed to authorize family case management officers to hear and dispose of matters involving parental rights and responsibilities and parent-child contact orders.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2003, chapter 39 authorizes family case management officers to hear and dispose of matters involving parental rights and responsibilities and parent-child contact orders when the order amends that portion of a protection from abuse order.

LD 733

An Act To Create the Fully Informed Jury Act

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> JOY		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 733 proposed to enact the Fully Informed Jury Act. It proposed to apply to all actions in which the defendant has a right to a jury trial and in which the State or a political subdivision of the State is the plaintiff.