

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 727

An Act To Protect Children by Allowing Child Care Facilities To Fingerprint Employees

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| DUPREY B SAWYER | ONTP | |

LD 727 proposed to provide licensed child care facilities the option to fingerprint employees or applicants for employment. The bill proposed to require child care facilities to pay for the fingerprinting and require employees and applicants to submit to the fingerprinting.

LD 732

Resolve, Directing the Department of Human Services To Establish an Advisory Task Force to Examine Staff-child Ratios and Maximum Group Size in Child Care Facilities

**RESOLVE 97
EMERGENCY**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| DUPREY B SAWYER | OTP-AM | H-168 S-277 GAGNON |

LD 732 proposed to establish in law minimum staff-child ratios for child care centers.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-168) proposed to replace the bill and make it a resolve. The amendment proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to convene an advisory task force to study staff-child ratios and maximum group size in child care facilities and to require the task force to make recommendations to the department and the department to report its conclusions to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. The amendment proposed to require the department to retain current child care rules in effect until June 15, 2004 to allow for the task force to complete its work and the department to conduct additional rulemaking if necessary.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-277) proposed to add an emergency preamble, clarify that up to 3 Legislators may serve on the advisory task force and authorize up to 4 meetings of the advisory task force. The amendment also proposed to change the reporting dates.

Enacted Law Summary

Resolve 2003, chapter 97 directs the Department of Human Services to convene an advisory task force to study staff-child ratios and maximum group size in child care facilities. The resolve requires the task force to make recommendations to the department by December 3, 2003 and requires the department to review those recommendations and report its conclusions to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 5, 2004. The resolve also requires the department to retain current child care rules in effect until June 15, 2004 to allow for the task force to complete its work and the department to conduct additional rulemaking if necessary.

Resolve 2003, chapter 97 was passed as an emergency measure effective June 25, 2003.