

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Appropriations And Financial Affairs*

July 2003

Members:

*Sen. Mary R. Cathcart, Chair
Sen. Margaret R. Rotundo
Sen. Karl W. Turner*

*Rep. Joseph C. Brannigan, Chair
Rep. Richard H. Mailhot
Rep. Scott W. Cowger
Rep. Benjamin F. Dudley
Rep. Sean Faircloth
Rep. Hannah Pingree
Rep. Richard W. Rosen
Rep. S. Peter Mills
Rep. H. Sawin Millett, Jr.
Rep. Julie Ann O'Brien*

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 APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

LD 716 **An Act To Continue Necessary State Funding of Freestanding, Nonprofit Psychiatric Hospitals for Services Provided to Indigent Patients and for Other Purposes** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MARTIN		<u>Committee Report</u>		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 716 proposes to provide necessary funding to reimburse the State's two freestanding, nonprofit psychiatric hospitals for services provided to indigent patients when these expenses can not be reimbursed by the Medicaid or Medicaid Disproportionate Share programs. The bill also proposed to provide funds to meet shortfalls projected at Augusta Mental Health Institute and Bangor Mental Health Institute. Of the \$18,000,000 sought for fiscal year 2003-04, \$10,000,000 was projected to be needed for the two freestanding, nonprofit psychiatric hospitals and \$8,000,000 was needed for AMHI and BMHI. The figures were based on preliminary estimates of the Department of Human Services.

The bill also proposes to require the Commissioner of Human Services and the Commissioner of Behavioral and Developmental Services to continue to work with these hospitals to advocate for the elimination of the federal cap on disproportionate share funds that are available for institutes for mental disease, or for other federal reforms that would ensure adequate federal funding for the population served by these hospitals. Similar provisions for prior fiscal years were enacted in Public Law 2001, chapter 559, Part X, sections 9 and 10.

LD 734 **Resolve, To Address the Maine Nursing Workforce Shortage through the Expansion of Nursing Education** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> RICHARDSON, J BRENNAN		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 734 proposed to require each head of a nursing program in the University of Maine System and the Maine Technical College System to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs by January 5, 2004 on the nursing workforce shortage in the State and the capacity of their nursing program to graduate the necessary number of nursing candidates to meet this shortage. This resolve also proposed to appropriate \$1,282,800 for 56 associate degree candidate slots in nursing and 80 bachelor's degree candidate slots in nursing at the University of Maine System and \$481,600 for 56 associate degree candidate slots in nursing at the Maine Technical College System.