

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
121st Legislature*

First Regular Session

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Insurance and Financial Services*

July 2003

Members:

Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III, Chair

Sen. Neria R. Douglass

Sen. Arthur F. Mayo III

Rep. Christopher P. O'Neil, Chair

Rep. Marilyn E. Canavan

Rep. Joseph C. Perry

Rep. Bonita J. Breault

Rep. Anne C. Perry

Rep. Kevin J. Glynn

Rep. Florence T. Young

Rep. Lois A. Snowe-Mello

Rep. Michael A. Vaughan

Rep. Richard G. Woodbury

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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 Insurance and Financial Services

LD 1168 **An Act To Establish a Cap on Credit Card Rates and To Require Notice of a Change in Credit Card Rates** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAMPSON DOUGLASS	ONTP	

LD 1168 proposed to establish a cap on the percentage of interest rates on credit card balances at 18% per year. This bill also requires creditors to notify consumers before raising the percentage of interest rates on credit card balances, even if the increase is described in the credit agreement between the creditor and consumer.

LD 1174 **An Act Relating to Options for Health Insurance Coverage** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'NEIL	ONTP	

LD 1174 proposed to establish the Maine Catastrophic Health Protection Plan as a nonprofit insurance company. The plan provides catastrophic health insurance coverage to all state residents. The plan is governed by a 9-member board of directors. The bill requires that the plan begin offering coverage on July 1, 2005. The bill also appropriates \$400,000 for planning activities and requires the board of directors to submit a comprehensive plan to the Governor and the Legislature by December 31, 2004.

LD 1175 **An Act To Improve the Affordability of Individual and Small Group Health Insurance** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'NEIL	ONTP	

Current law allows small group carriers to form a reinsurance pool for the purpose of reinsuring small group risks. To date, no small group carriers have not taken advantage of this authorization. LD 1175 proposed to require both individual and small group health plan carriers to participate in a reinsurance pool for their respective type of insurance. The Department of Human Services, Bureau of Medical Services and the Governor's Office of Health Policy and Finance, an office created by Executive Order on January 9, 2003, are required to work together to develop a plan creating the reinsurance pools. The requirement to participate in the reinsurance pools is contingent upon the approval of the plan by the Superintendent of Insurance.

LD 1175 also proposed to require so-called "pure community rating" for both individual and small group health plan carriers, requires higher amounts of premium dollars to be used for direct medical care and removes statutory authority permitting high-deductible plans.