

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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*State Of Maine
122nd Legislature*

*First Regular Session and
First Special Session*

Bill Summaries

*Joint Standing Committee
on
Health and Human Services*

August 2005

Staff:

*Jane Orbeton, Senior Analyst
Lucia Nixon, Legislative Analyst
Patrick Norton, Deputy Director*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-1670*

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Maine State Legislature

OFFICE OF POLICY & LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Room 215 Cross State Office Building
Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

122nd Legislature
First Regular Session and First Special Session

Summary of Legislation Considered by the Joint Standing Committees
August 2005

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the joint standing 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 organized by committees 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. A subject index for each committee is included immediately before the bill summaries for that committee, and a numerical index by LD number is included 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:

- CARRIED OVER Bill Carried Over to Second Regular Session
CON RES XXX..... Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died
DIED BETWEEN BODIES..... House & Senate disagree; bill died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... Action incomplete when session ended; bill died
EMERGENCY..... Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE..... Bill failed to get majority vote
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT..... Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died
INDEF PP..... Bill Indefinitely Postponed
ONTP..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted
OTP ND..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft
OTP ND/NT..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title
P&S XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law
PUBLIC XXX..... Chapter # of enacted Public Law
RESOLVE XXX..... Chapter # of finally passed Resolve
UNSIGNED..... Bill held by Governor
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 29, 2005; and for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session is September 17, 2005.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

LD 480

An Act To Reduce Costs Caused by New Procedure Changes for Health Care Providers

PUBLIC 241

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GLYNN		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-341
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LD 480 proposed to provide for a minimum of 6 months between the date of adoption of a rule by the Department of Health and Human Services and the effective date of that rule for health care providers.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 241 provides for a 30 day period during which nonemergency rules adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services pertaining to process or procedural changes for licensed health care providers do not take effect after adoption. The law does not apply to any rule affecting reimbursement rates applicable to those providers.

LD 481

Resolve, To Ensure That Public Assistance Benefits Do Not Exceed Average Wages for a County

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> THOMAS DOW		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 481 proposed to direct the Department of Health and Human Services to propose a limit on all forms of public assistance that would be implemented through a cap on public assistance benefits funded from the General Fund in order to encourage adults in families that might otherwise be eligible for benefits to seek employment. The resolve proposed to direct the department to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2006 on the proposed limit on public assistance.

LD 482

An Act To Ensure Adequate Health Care for Children

PUBLIC 373

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> DUDLEY STRIMLING		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-641
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LD 482 proposed to repeal the following provisions of law regarding spiritual health care treatment of children:

1. The defense against criminal prosecution for endangerment of the welfare of a child for a person who provides treatment for a child or dependent person by spiritual means through prayer alone;
2. The exemption for health care practitioners who provide treatment by spiritual means alone from the requirement of health care providers to report to the Department of Health and Human Services regarding treatment of persons with cancer;