

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 1568

An Act To Allow Nurse Practitioners To Sign Death Certificates

**PUBLIC 359
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PINKHAM		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-594
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LD 1568 proposed to authorize a certified nurse midwife or a nurse practitioner who is present at a death or after a death to sign a death certificate in the case of a fetal death. The bill proposed to authorize a nurse practitioner to sign a death certificate in the case of the death of a patient in the care of the nurse practitioner or in the case of the death of a patient whose recent medical condition is known to the nurse practitioner.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 2005, chapter 359 authorizes a certified nurse midwife or a nurse practitioner who is present at a death or after a death to sign a death certificate in the case of the death of a patient in the care of the nurse practitioner or in the case of the death of a patient whose recent medical condition is known to the nurse practitioner.

Public Law 2005, chapter 359 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 9, 2005.

LD 1580

An Act To Enhance Maine's Medical Errors Reporting System

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TRAHAN SNOWE-MELLO		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1580 is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208. It proposed to enhance the system for reporting of medical errors by hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers and mental health hospitals.

LD 1601

**An Act To Prevent the Manufacturing of Methamphetamine in
Maine**

PUBLIC 430

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> EDMONDS RICHARDSON J		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> S-334
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LD 1601 proposed to place several restrictions on over-the-counter decongestant cold medicines that can be used in the toxic chemical process of making the illegal drug methamphetamine. The bill proposed to affect medicines in solid pill or dry form that contain ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine because those products are commonly used to manufacture methamphetamine. The bill proposed to define those products as "targeted methamphetamine precursors."

The bill proposed to exempt medicines in liquid, gel cap or liquid-filled capsule form because those products are not commonly used to manufacture methamphetamine.