

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

August 2019

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contains summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Regular Session of the 129th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

CARRIED OVER..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
CON RES XXX..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCY..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX..... chapter # of enacted public law
RESOLVE XXX..... chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective date for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature is Thursday, September 19, 2019. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

period. It also requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a work group of stakeholders to examine the municipal general assistance program and report findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 2, 2020.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-363)

This amendment removes the language requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to reimburse a municipality 100% of direct general assistance costs after a person has spent 90 consecutive nights homeless or living in an emergency shelter for the homeless.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2019, chapter 515 defines "homelessness" for the purposes of the laws governing general assistance and specifies that a person experiencing or facing homelessness who meets the conditions for receiving emergency assistance in current law is eligible for emergency general assistance. It also establishes presumptive eligibility for general assistance for 30 days for persons who are provided shelter at emergency shelters for the homeless and specifies that no other municipality may be determined to be the municipality of responsibility during that 30-day period. The Department of Health and Human Services is required to establish a work group of stakeholders to examine the municipal general assistance program and report findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than January 2, 2020.

LD 463 An Act To Reduce Obesity Rates in Maine

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PIERCE T SANBORN L	ONTP	

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a comprehensive state plan relating to the reduction of unhealthy weight and obesity. The plan must include coordination of activities within the Department of Health and Human Services and among state departments, efforts to monitor rates of unhealthy weight and obesity, including a survey of food and drink consumption and physical exercise, and a media plan to reduce the consumption of sugary drinks. The department is required to submit the plan to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters no later than January 1, 2020 and every two years thereafter. The bill also includes a position within the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, or contracted for by the department, as a coordinator of the state plan. The bill also appropriates funds to develop and implement the plan, to improve surveillance and epidemiology related to obesity and to fund one Obesity Care Coordinator position in the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

LD 472 An Act To Provide Meals to Homebound Individuals

**Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MATLACK A MIRAMANT D	OTP-AM	H-12

This bill provides for the appropriation of funding to provide meals to homebound individuals. This bill also establishes a work group to research food access barriers and make recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services about how to leverage resources to ensure regular, adequate nutrition for homebound individuals in the State and to forecast future demand and identify the appropriate level of funding in the future.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Committee Amendment "A" (H-12)

This amendment removes the work group to research food access barriers from the bill.

Public Law 2019, chapter 343 (the biennial budget) included some funding for two years to provide meals to homebound individuals.

LD 474 Resolve, To Establish a Medically Tailored Food Pilot Project

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SANBORN L PIERCE T	OTP-AM	S-36

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to request the United States Department of Agriculture to waive the asset test for determining the eligibility for the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program of any household in which there is an individual who is 60 years of age or older. It also directs the department to develop a pilot project to provide home-delivered meals to individuals who are 60 years of age or older and who are homebound or at risk for readmission to a health care facility. It requires the department to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters at the conclusion of the pilot project. The bill also provides funding to eliminate the waiting list for home-delivered meals to homebound individuals who are over 60 years of age who cannot prepare meals and do not have others available to prepare meals for them.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-36)

This amendment removes from the resolve the provisions relating to requesting a waiver from the asset test for the federal supplemental nutrition assistance program and providing additional funds to eliminate the waiting list for home-delivered meals to homebound individuals. The amendment also clarifies that the demonstration waiver for medically tailored foods applies to individuals who are 60 years of age or older, homebound and at risk for readmission to a health care facility. It changes the date for reporting on the two-year pilot project to January 1, 2023 and clarifies that the pilot project goes forward only if the waiver is approved by the federal government. The amendment also includes an appropriations and allocations section.

This resolve was reported out of committee and then carried over to any special or regular session, or both, of the 129th Legislature on the Special Appropriations Table by joint order, H.P. 1322.

**LD 476 Resolve, To Review the Delivery of Services to the Citizens of the State
by the Department of Health and Human Services**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
WOODSOME D	ONTP	

This resolve requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services, working with health and human services providers in York County and Cumberland County as well as with other stakeholders, to review the programs, services and operations of the Department of Health and Human Services and determine if any of those programs, services and operations can be delivered more efficiently at the county level. The commissioner is required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services detailing the findings of the review. The committee is authorized to submit legislation based on the report to the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.