

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

The House voted to indefinitely postpone the Joint Resolution, and so it did not pass.

1265 AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADVOCACY SERVICES TO RESIDENTS OF CHILDREN'S HOMES Rep. Murray OTP-A
HSE-ENACT.
SEN-ENACT.
GOV-SIGNED
PL 1983, c. 539

SUMMARY: The bill authorized the Protection and Advocacy Agency for the Developmentally Disabled (Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled) to investigate complaints of violations of the rights of developmentally disabled persons who are residents in children's homes, emergency shelters, family foster homes and residential child care facilities. The Advocates were to report to the Interdepartmental Committee regularly on these activities. The bill also provided funding for two additional staff members.

The Committee Amendment (H-295) broadened the types of residences to include specialized children's homes and residential facilities such as the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf. The reports will now be made to the Departments of Corrections, Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Educational and Cultural Services, and Human Services. The appropriation was reduced for the first year because the provisions would not be in effect for the full fiscal year.

1330 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE COVERAGE OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES UNDER THE LOW COST DRUGS FOR THE ELDERLY PROGRAM Rep. Hayden OTP-A
HSE-ENACT.
SEN-ENACT.
GOV-SIGNED
PL 83, c. 290

SUMMARY: The bill amended the Elderly Low-Cost Drug Program by allowing medical supplies to be covered under the program, subject to available funds. It also made some technical changes in the wording of the Act (e.g., deleting "regulations"), and required the Commissioner of Human Services to have sufficient staff for the efficient administration of the program.

There was no opposition, only concern that insufficient monies were allocated for this program.

The Committee Amendment (H-178) corrected a printing error.

1337 AN ACT CONCERNING CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING NEED FOR WELFARE Rep. Livesay LV/WD
HSE-ACCP LV/WD
SEN-ACCP LV/WD

SUMMARY: This bill would have added permissible standards to be used by municipalities in determining the need of an applicant for General Assistance aid. One standard suggested was that the applicant not have expended more than 25% of income on "luxury items" in each of the 3 months preceding the application.

The bill was opposed by the Department of Human Services and low-income groups, because of the work being done on the other General Assistance bills, and also because of the difficulty of defining the term "luxury items."

It was considered together with the other general assistance bills (LDs 554, 841, 842 and 1135) and then withdrawn.

1353 AN ACT TO LIMIT FUTURE INCREASES IN THE COST OF HOSPITAL CARE IN MAINE Sen. Najarian OTP-ND LD 1737

SUMMARY: The Hospital Cost-Containment bill resulted from recommendations made by the Health Facilities Cost Review Board to develop a mandatory hospital prospective reimbursement system.

The bill established a Health Care Finance Commission to develop and oversee the system, set requirements for hospitals to meet, provided for regional development funds and required equity among payors.

It was discussed together with LDs 631 and 1174. The Committee supervised and directed the negotiations between the Department of Human Services and the Maine Hospital Association, which led to the new draft, LD 1737.

1358 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A STATE BOARD OF PRISON TERMS AND SUPERVISED RELEASE Rep. McHenry ONTP HSE-ACCPY ONTP SEN-ACCPY ONTP

SUMMARY: The bill would have created a State Board of Prison Terms, replacing the present State Parole Board, which would authorize release of eligible inmates after they had completed serving half of their sentence. The Board would also be able to add time to the release date, if the inmate had been guilty of misconduct while in prison. Inmates released into the community would be supervised by the Division of Probation and Parole in the Department of Corrections.

There was considerable opposition to the bill from District Attorneys, the Criminal Law Advisory Commission and current and former P & P officers. The Department of Corrections also expressed strong reservations.

After the hearing, the Committee voted to re-refer the bill to the Judiciary Committee, who then sent it back to the H & I S Committee. The Committee then voted it Ought Not to Pass.

1387 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE OF FOSTER PARENT ADVOCATE Sen. Wood LV/WD HSE-ACCPY LV/WD SEN-ACCPY LV/WD

SUMMARY: The bill would have provided funding for a staff person in the Department of Human Services to serve as an advocate on behalf of foster parents.