

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JUNE 1984

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the Second Regular Session of the 111th Legislature. The summaries are arranged alphabetically, and indexed separately by committee.

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
HEALTH AND INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES
BILL SUMMARY



MAY, 1984

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1957 AN ACT TO REVISE PRO-
VISIONS OF THE MEDICAL
EYE CARE PROGRAM

Gill

OTP
HSE-ENACT
SEN-ENACT
GOV-SIGNED
PL 83, c. 831

SUMMARY: In the First Regular Session, the Committee passed a bill affecting the Medical Eye Care Program, which allowed the Department of Human Services to provide glasses to people with 20/70 vision, or worse. That bill did not survive the Appropriations Table.

ID 1957 reenacted these provisions, by which persons with 20/70 vision would also have to meet certain income criteria. There was an appropriation of \$5,000 on the bill.

1963 AN ACT TO CLARIFY CERTAIN PRO- Carpenter
VISIONS IN THE RECODIFICA-
TION OF THE GENERAL
ASSISTANCE LAWS

OTP-A
HSE-ENACT
SEN-ENACT
GOV-SIGNED
PL 83, c. 697

SUMMARY: The General Assistance laws (22 MRSA, chapter 1161) were recodified during the First Regular Session. This bill addressed 4 areas: 1) exempting people from a work search if they are in a vocational rehabilitation program, rather than the vocational training currently in the law; 2) correcting a reference from "state" to "municipal"; 3) establishing procedures for liens; 4) clarifying the fair hearing procedure.

The greatest discussion centered on the first and third issues.

There was considerable disagreement as to whether students in a vocational training program should receive the exemption, and even more so on the related issue of college-level students being eligible to receive general assistance.

The concern on liens was to ensure that the procedure for filing a lien was sufficiently clear to the general assistance recipient as well as to the municipality.

An additional issue was brought up in an amendment submitted to the Committee, requiring persons whose disability is caused by substance abuse to use resources recommended by a Substance Abuse Counselor. After discussing the merits of this approach, the Committee decided not to recommend this action.

The Committee Amendment (S-324) essentially rewrote the bill, leaving intact only the original 2nd section. On the job search exemption, the new language refers not to vocational training or rehabilitation, but to training programs approved by the Department of Labor. A written notice, explaining the conditions of a lien, is to be given to the recipient each time assistance is received; this notice also contains information on the municipal official who granted the assistance.

In the fair hearing section, the time periods are standardized to be 5 working days, except for a 10 working day period for a recipient to fill an appeal if the municipality did not provide a written notice of its action.

1966	AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE LICENSING AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE	Nelson	OTP-ND ID 2197
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SUMMARY: Under the Medical Practice Act, the Board of Registration in Medicine licenses applicants who meet certain standards. However, a recent opinion of the Attorney General suggested the Act did not permit the Board to refuse to license applicants with inadequate medical (and specifically clinical) education.

The bill addressed this concern by making specific provision for evaluation of graduates of foreign medical schools, including passing a comprehensive examination. It also clarified other sections on temporary licensure of physicians, and temporary certification of interns and residents, and repealed other sections of the Act.

The Attorney General's Office, acting as Counsel to the Board, offered a substantial redraft of the bill to the Committee; this became the new draft.

1978	AN ACT CONCERNING THE DIS- CLOSURE OF LICENSING RECORDS REGARDING ADULT AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS	Nelson	OTP-ND ID 2294
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SUMMARY: The intent of this bill was to add a section to the general provisions for facilities for children and adults regarding the standards for disclosure of information contained in licensing records. Any information gathered in connection with an adult or child protective investigation would be released only in conjunction with the standards of the child abuse laws.