

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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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other sections on temporary licensure of physicians, and temporary certification of interns and residents, and repealed other sections of the Act.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.

There was considerable discussion as to whether the bill was sufficiently clear in showing which information was confidential, and which could be released. The Maine Press Association was interested in having access to information contained in the licensing record.

After further discussion between the MPA, the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Human Services, a new draft was prepared.

1995	AN ACT TO ENSURE MEDICAL COVERAGE OF RESIDENTS IN COST REIMBURSEMENT BOARDING HOMES	Bustin	OTP-ND ID 2266
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SUMMARY: The Federal government revoked Medicaid coverage for residents of cost-reimbursement boarding homes whose income was slightly above the Medicaid eligibility limits, a long-established Maine policy. After making payments to the boarding home, the remaining income was insufficient to cover both personal needs and medical expenses.

The emergency bill, as presented, did not sufficiently address the situation, and so a redraft was prepared by the Department of Human Services and Pine Tree Legal Assistance.

1996	AN ACT AMENDING THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AND CHILD PROTECTION ACT	Bustin	OTP-ND ID 2386 (Maj) & ID 2387 (Min)
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SUMMARY: The bill was originally referred to the Judiciary Committee. Two sections of the bill were in response to a Federal requirement, and clarified the need for appointment of a guardian ad litem for the child at hearings involving child protection proceedings; there was no opposition to those provisions.

A third section added criminal penalties for disclosure of confidential record information, and at the hearing the Department of Human Services requested additional language prohibiting persons who legally receive departmental records from copying them or releasing them to others. The Maine Press Association objected to this addition.

Lastly, the bill made clear that immunity from liability for reporting of child abuse or neglect would not extend to immunity if the reporter was the perpetrator. The Senate Legal Counsel expressed a concern that there not be ambiguity as to whether a person would be immune from prosecution for perjury.