

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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2047	AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE AUTHORITY OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS	Bustin	OTP-A HSE-ENACT SEN-ENACT GOV-SIGNED PL 83, c. 669
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SUMMARY: Current law allows the Registrar to designate someone as his representative; the bill specifically authorized the representative to act during the Registrar's absence.

The Committee Amendment (S-301) added the title of Deputy State Registrar, officially creating the position.

2056	AN ACT TO AMEND THE STATUTES GOVERNING THE LICENSING OF CHILDREN'S HOMES		HSE-ENACT SEN-ENACT GOV-SIGNED PL 83, c. 629
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SUMMARY: This new draft of LD 1900 placed the exceptions into their own section, removing them from definitions.

2062	AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR LICENSURE OF BIRTHING CENTERS	Soule	OTP-ND LD 2361
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SUMMARY: Licenses are required for various health care organizations, such as hospitals, nursing homes and rest homes. The bill would have added birthing centers to the list; it also defined the terms "birthing center" and "birth service."

2076	AN ACT TO AMEND THE MEDICAL RADIATION HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT	Manning	OTP HSE-ENACT SEN-ENACT GOV-SIGNED PL 83, c. 672
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SUMMARY: The bill amends the act, passed in 1983, by adding a provision for special permits for nuclear medicine technologists. The person would have to be licensed as a radiographer, and take an exam within a year, and there would have to be a proven need for nuclear medicine technologists in the area.

2104	AN ACT RELATING TO MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES	D. Carroll	OTP-ND LD 2396
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SUMMARY: This emergency bill would have required the Department of Human Services to pay ambulance services transporting Medicaid patients specific amounts for a base, plus a per-mile transportation cost while the patient was in the ambulance. The ambulance services supporting the bill pointed out there had been no increase in the rates since 1973.

The Department of Human Services opposed the bill, primarily on the basis of the cost to the State Medicaid program. They also argued that current reimbursement levels had not led to a decrease in the number of providers.

The Committee discussed possible amounts of increase, but the Department objected to the Legislature setting a specific fee schedule. The compromise was to increase the funds allocated to the Emergency Medical Services portion of the Medicaid budget.

2172	AN ACT TO CORRECT ERRORS AND INCONSISTENCIES IN THE SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION LAW AND OTHER RELATED LAWS		HSE-ENACT SEN-ENACT GOV-SIGNED PL 83, c. 661
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SUMMARY: The new draft of LD 1869 updated language and repealed conflicting provisions in the School Immunization Law in Title 20-A so it may be read clearly with the public health provisions of Title 22.

It required superintendents to notify the Department of Human Services of communicable diseases.

It repealed the current sections on immunization, and rewrote them to include new definitions, a clearer statement on record-keeping, a requirement of an annual report on the immunization status of students in each school (to be submitted to the Director of the Bureau of Health and to the Commissioner of Educational and Cultural Services) and the promulgation of joint rules.

2186	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH FARM PROGRAMS AT CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES	McHenry	OTP-A HSE-ENACT SEN-ENACT GOV-SIGNED PL 83, c. 724
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SUMMARY: There was no opposition to this bill, which permits a farm program to be established at each correctional facility, specifies the disposition of the products and revenue and establishes a special account.

The Committee Amendment (H-566) further expands the opportunities for disposition of surplus products, and makes clear that there is no legislative intent that a state program adversely impact private businesses.