

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

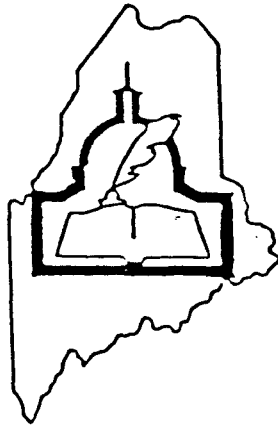
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STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES  
BILL SUMMARY



JULY, 1985

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES  
JULY 1985

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature, covering the First Regular Session of the 112th Legislature. The summaries are arranged by LD number and indexed separately by committee.

LD: 732 AN ACT TO ASSURE ADVOCACY SERVICES FOR  
CHILDREN WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

ND: 1369

CLARK N  
CROUSE  
GILL  
MATTHEWS K

OTP-ND HOUSE Accepted Committee Report  
SENATE Accepted Committee Report  
GOV

SUMMARY:

This bill adds children with learning disabilities to people eligible for direct assistance from the Protection and Advocacy Agency for the Developmentally Disabled. Currently, unless a child is severely learning disabled, he is only eligible for information and referral services.

The new draft (LD 1369) added a definition of learning disability and conformed the rest of the law concerning developmentally disabled advocacy with the language and intent of the original bill.

LD: 784 AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE EARLY IDENTIFICATION  
AND TREATMENT OF IMPAIRED PHYSICIANS

ND: 1435

CHALMERS  
MELENDY  
GILL  
BUSTIN

OTP-ND HOUSE Accepted Committee Report  
SENATE Accepted Committee Report  
GOV

SUMMARY:

The original bill was proposed to encourage early identification and treatment of physicians impaired by addiction to drugs or alcohol, or by physical or mental infirmity. It provided statutory protection to members of the public and professional colleagues who report disabled or impaired physicians to a committee organized for the express purpose of dealing with those physicians. The bill also authorized the Board of Registration in Medicine to develop appropriate protocols for the committee, including periodic reports to the board without personal identifying information. Records of the committee are confidential.

The bill also provided an exemption from reporting an impaired physician to the Board of Registration in Medicine, as required by the Maine Health Security Act, if such physician is reported to the impaired physician committee, or if the relevant information is obtained through a physician's work on that committee. The impaired physician committee would be required to report the impaired physician to the board in some instances, such instances to be identified in the board's protocols.

The new draft (LD1435) clarified the identity of the professional review committee established to carry out the purposes of the new draft, changed a reference from "habitual drunkenness" to "misuse of alcohol" and added language to insure that alternative forms of treatment are available for impaired physicians.

LD:	786	AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE LAW	BERUBE
			CARPENTER
	OTP-AM	HOUSE Enacted	PUBLIC
		SENATE Enacted	CH #489
		GOV Signed	
	S-272	CA	H S
	S-351	CA PEARSON	
	S-363	CA PEARSON	
	S-366	CA PEARSON	H S

SUMMARY:

The original bill, although entitled An Act to Clarify the General Assistance Law, actually sought to make major substantive changes to the General Assistance laws in the following areas: student eligibility, determination of need, income standards, income applicability, initial application criteria, back bills, emergency assistance, state reimbursement, work requirement, recovery of expenses and lien notice.

The committee amendment (S-272) replaced the original bill and amended the general assistance law by making the following changes:

1. provided that the period of time used in calculating income, for a determination of need, is a 30-day period, convening on the date of the application;
2. changed the focus of the general assistance eligibility determination. General assistance, in nonemergency situations, was based on whether or not a person's income and other resources is sufficient to provide "basic necessities." This change will base the determination on whether the person's income and other resources available to provide basic necessities is less than the maximum levels of assistance established by the municipality. The municipality's maximum levels of assistance must be reasonable and adequate standards sufficient to maintain health and decency;