

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

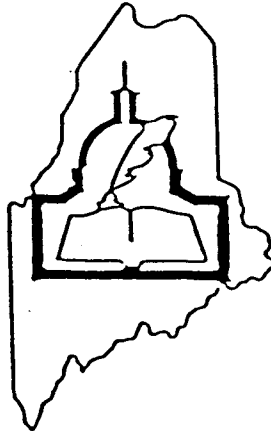
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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
LOCAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT
BILL SUMMARY



MAY 1986

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
MAY 1986

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

All Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor if it is a floor amendment or the designation "CA" if it is a committee amendment. If the amendment was adopted in the House, the letter H appears after the sponsor. If it was adopted in the Senate, the letter S appears.

Final action for each bill is listed to the right of the title. If final House action and Senate action differ, both are listed.

Key to Committee Reports and Floor Action:

OTP	Ought to Pass
OTP-ND	Ought to Pass in New Draft
OTP-ND-NT	Ought to Pass in New Draft, New Title
OTP-AM	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

Sponsor: GAUVREAU, Nadeau G R, Hickey, Berube
Committee Report: LVWD

SUMMARY: This bill was carried over from the 1st session so that the sponsor, the Maine Municipal Association and the Funeral Directors' Association could recommend legislation satisfactory to all parties.

This Act allows those responsible for the estate of the deceased to be reimbursed for his burial expenses if his eligibility cannot be determined beforehand and if he is determined to be eligible subsequent to his burial.

This Act ties into the Municipal General Assistance statute. Under this statute municipalities are required to have a general assistance program. This program is to provide immediate aid to persons for whom the bare necessities are unable to be provided by themselves or their families. The municipality is empowered to establish standards of eligibility and need and must establish standards for determining eligibility and the amount of assistance.

There are two somewhat conflicting sections regarding timing of relief. One section states that eligible applicants shall obtain relief or denial within 24 hours of application. The other states that an applicant in need of immediate assistance shall obtain it within 24 hours if the overseer determines that the applicant will probably be declared eligible. If a municipality incurs expenses for an eligible person it may recover these expenses from the person or from any person liable for that person's support.

Third parties not associated with the indigent party may be reimbursed for providing for eligible persons provided that the expenses receive prior approval by the municipality.

In the case of burial expenses of an eligible person, the overseer has 10 days to make a decision on the application for payment of burial expenses. In addition to parents and grandparents who are held responsible for a person's basic needs of all types, children and grandchildren are held responsible for burial expenses.

The various interested parties were unable to reconcile their differences between sessions.