

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:

1132

AN ACT TO AMEND THE SOCIAL SERVICES PLANNING
AND EXPENDITURES ACT

BERUBE
MFLENDY
MANNING
PINES
PUBLIC
CH # 96

ND: 42

HOUSE Enacted
SENATE Enacted
GOV SIGNED

SUMMARY:

The Social Services Planning and Expenditures Act was enacted in 1983 to establish a procedure and a timetable for the development of a Social Services Plan. The Plan would include an assessment of past programs and preliminary recommendations for the next year. The procedure would include an outline of the Plan, workshops held by Legislative committees, and recommendations on the Plan by those committees, culminating in the budget document prepared by the Governor. Many of the details of this project are contained in an Executive Order which is referenced in the legislation.

The original bill (LD 42) sought to amend that Act. The Committee draft made the following changes in the current law:

1. deletes all requirements for public hearings and legislative workshops. Many public hearings are already held on social service programs. The Human Services Council can also hold broad-perspective public hearings to help focus public input on the social services plan. The Legislature can schedule workshops any time it desires;
2. adjusts the timetable to reflect more adequately the availability of information. The report will not require budget priorities before they have been determined by the Governor; and
3. reflects a change in focus from a plan which compares the current social services with those services which will be requested during the next 2 years to a report of the last biennium's social services and those social services funded by the state appropriation and federal money during the immediately preceding 12-month period. This shift in focus is a natural result of the timetable change. To the degree that such information is available, the report requires a discussion of certain policy issues, including major changes in program emphasis and trends in social service programs.