

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

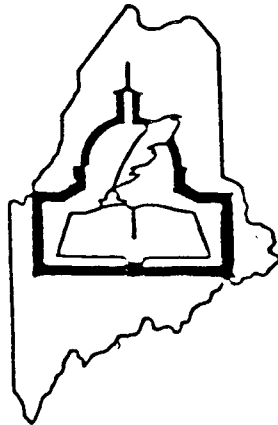
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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT
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: 1357 RESOLVE, TO AUTHORIZE GRANTING A SEWER LINE MAYO
EMERGENCY EASEMENT ON STATE LAND TO THE TOWN OF CHALMERS
THOMASTON

OTP-AM HOUSE Finally Passed RESOLVE
SENATE Finally Passed CH # 32
GOV SIGNED

H-171 CA H S

SUMMARY:

LD 1357, which authorizes the Town of Thomaston to repair a sewer line on State land by granting the town an easement, is the result of a deteriorated sewerage line on State prison property that ruptured and spilled its contents into the cove. The cove had to be closed to clamming.

The Committee removed the emergency clause and preamble which violated Article IV, Part Third, Section 16. The Committee requested the Department of Corrections to contract with the Town of Thomaston to allow the Town to commence repairs immediately.

LD: 1362 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE STATE EMPLOYEE BUSTIN
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ROLDE
BRODEUR
DOW

OTP-AM HOUSE Enacted PUBLIC
SENATE Enacted CH # 373
GOV SIGNED

S-173 CA H S
S-224 CA KANY H S

SUMMARY:

LD 1362 establishes, by statute, a State Employee Assistance Program. This program would assist state employees with

- A. Alcohol and drug abuse problems
- B. emotional problems
- C. family problems including, legal, financial, and marital problems.

The State Employee Assistance Program, as initially proposed, would be staffed by 9 classified state employees, including the director. The program would be established within the Department of Human Services, its present location, and the Commissioner of Human Services would oversee the program.

State employees who use the assistance program are granted administrative leave without loss of pay or benefits.

The intent of the bill is to improve state employee job performance which may not be as good as it could be because of personal problems. The Statement of Fact asserts that the appropriation of roughly \$570,000 for the biennium would establish savings of \$6,000,000 per year.

The committee agreed to establish the program in statute which existed only by executive order. The program has existed since 1977 and has been staffed by or authorized a director, 2 counselors, and a secretary. The Committee amended the bill to require the same level of staff and to require the director and the Department of Human Services to evaluate the program and its needs. The report will be sent to the State Government Committee by the Second Regular Session.

The bill was also amended by a floor amendment which removed the number and types of staff people to be employed in the program, and the appropriation in the budget will determine the staff.

Client confidentiality will be retained by passage of the bill.

LD:	1387	AN ACT TO REQUIRE NEWLY APPOINTED COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO	KANY
		COMPLETE A BASIC TRAINING COURSE WITHIN THE	DIAMOND G
ND:	174	FIRST 6 MONTHS OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT	TRAFTON
			DESCOTEAUX
		HOUSE Enacted	PUBLIC
		SENATE Enacted	CH # 155
		GOV SIGNED	

SUMMARY:

LD 174, the original bill, required the chiefs of municipal police and sheriffs to subject applicants or newly hired police officers to a test covering the Maine Criminal Code and the motor vehicle code. The Maine Municipal Association opposed the bill on the grounds that the proposal expected too much of police chiefs and sheriffs. In addition, there would be no uniform testing of candidates.

The new draft requires newly appointed county and municipal law enforcement officers to obtain training within the first 6 months of their employment. Currently, newly appointed law enforcement officers have the authority to arrest persons and to enforce the law without any training and without any knowledge of the Criminal Code and motor vehicle law. This new draft seeks to provide protection to both the officer and the general public. The Maine Criminal Justice Academy may extend the deadline by 90 days in order to accommodate the new appointments with the Academy's training schedule. The Maine Criminal Justice Academy indicates there is no current backlog of trainees, and the academy can expeditiously serve the new appointments.