

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
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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.

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 COMPLETE A BASIC TRAINING COURSE WITHIN THE FIRST 6 MONTHS OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT	KANY DIAMOND G TRAFTON DESCOTEAUX
ND:	174		
		HOUSE Enacted SENATE Enacted GOV SIGNED	PUBLIC CH # 155

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.

The new draft also authorizes the Maine Criminal Justice Academy to provide instructional and training information and materials to municipalities and counties.

LD: 1417 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE-GUARANTEED MORTGAGES SMITH C B

LV-WD HOUSE Accepted Committee Report
SENATE Accepted Committee Report
GOV

SUMMARY:

LD 1417 proposed that any residential mortgage acquired by the Maine State Housing Authority would not require the seller to pay the "points" or the seller would be reimbursed by the financial institution for the "points" paid. The bill arose out of a problem in which the buyer was willing to pay the points, but was prohibited by rules of the Housing Authority.

Since points are necessary for processing loans and paying administrative costs, the points could not be eliminated. In addition, points are paid at the closing when the financing is transacted. If points were charged to some other party or assessed in some other manner, there may not be sufficient assurance that the points would actually be paid.

LD: 1428 RESOLVE, PERTAINING TO A STATE EMPLOYEE MANNING
EMERGENCY HEALTH PROMOTION GILL
ND: 992

HOUSE Emer. Finally Passed RESOLVE
SENATE Emer. Finally Passed CH # 23
GOV EMER SIGNED

S-79 SA KANY H S

SUMMARY:

LD 992 created a State Employee Health Promotion Commission and Program to study a number of factors relating to the health of state employees and to develop recommendations for a health promotion program. Consisting of 9 members, the Commission would submit its proposed program to the Second Regular Session of the 112th Legislature.

The Maine State Employees Association argued that the provisions of a health promotion program for state employees should be included or won through collective bargaining. The Department of Personnel agreed to the collective bargaining idea, and the original bill was rejected in favor of the new draft, LD 1428.