

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
113TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HUMAN RESOURCES

MAY 1988

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**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST & SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
MAY 1988**

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. The summaries are arranged by LD number under each committee.

All Adopted Amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H-584 or S-222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action is listed to the right of the title. If final House and Senate action differ, both are listed. Committee Reports and Floor Action are indicated as follows::

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

Each individual summary was prepared by the analyst assigned, as noted for each committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including Secretaries: Charlene Brann, Janet Jean, Earl Knox, Valarie Parlin; Research Assistant Hartley Palleschi. Finally, Secretary Laurette Knox, Legal Assistant Carolyn Chick, and Research Assistant Robert Dunn had special responsibilities in the preparation of the overall document.

Please give us your suggestions and comments on these summaries and tell us of any inaccuracies.

corrections required by the department, the department may impose a penalty in the form of fines. A maximum fine of \$5,000 may be imposed for each statement of deficiency issued to a skilled nursing or intermediate care facility. A maximum fine of \$3,000 may be imposed for each statement of deficiency issued to a boarding facility. The next action that could be pursued is a prohibition against new admissions to a facility in violation of licensing rules.

<p>LD An Act to Require Principles of Reimbursement for 1603 Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded to Include Provisions for Covering Increases in Insurance Premiums</p>	<p>REFERRED BACK TO COMMITTEE IN 1ST REG SESSION</p>
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<p><u>SPONSOR(S)</u> BUSTIN TAYLOR BOUTILIER THISTLE</p>	<p><u>COMMITTEE</u> <u>REPORT</u></p>	<p><u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u></p>
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SUMMARY
 New Draft of LD 491. The original bill, introduced in the 1st Regular Session, required the Department of Human Services to include adjustments for insurance premiums in the principles of reimbursement for group and nursing homes providing residential care for mentally retarded citizens. The new draft added boarding care facilities and included an appropriation and a fiscal note. The new draft was referred back to the committee and the bill, LD 491, was held over. LD 491 was indefinitely postponed in the 2nd Regular Session.

<p>LD 1705</p>	<p>An Act to Revise the General Assistance Laws (Reported Pursuant to Private and Special Law, Chaps. 79 and 131 of 1985)</p>	<p>PUBLIC 833</p>
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<p><u>SPONSOR(S)</u> COMMISSION SPONSORED</p>	<p><u>COMMITTEE</u> <u>REPORT</u> LV/WD</p>	<p><u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u> H-749 MANNING</p>
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SUMMARY
 This bill, held over from the 1st Regular Session, represents the legislation proposed by the Majority Report of the Special Select Commission on the Administration and Financing of General Assistance.

PART A establishes a comprehensive information and referral service for social services.

PART B expands the Welfare, Employment, Education and Training Program (WEET) to increase the job training assistance to AFDC recipients.

PART C amends the residency requirements in regard to determining which municipality is responsible for General Assistance applicants.

PART D prohibits hospital expenses from being billed to a municipality's General Assistance Program.

PART E prohibits general assistance disbursements in the form of cash (not a unanimous recommendation of the Majority Report.)

PART F indexes the AFDC standard of need in order to keep pace with inflation.

PART G provides an AFDC special needs supplement to help AFDC recipients meet the cost of shelter.

PART H provides AFDC benefits to first-time pregnant women in their third trimester of pregnancy.

PART I provides the funds to allow the Department of Human Services to provide an additional 6 months of Medicaid coverage permitted under Federal law, to qualified AFDC families who lose Medicaid benefits due to return to work.

PART J provides for additional reimbursement by the State to the municipalities for expenses incurred through the General Assistance Program. Each municipality would choose one of the following options for additional reimbursement:

- a. State funding of 50% of all municipal General Assistance expenditures below the current threshold. (Continue reimbursement of 90% above that obligation threshold); or
- b. State reimbursement for the reasonable administrative costs of the General Assistance Program, calculated as 10% of the General Assistance cost for that municipality.

During the 1st Regular Session, Parts B, C & D were enacted in other legislation.

The Committee reported the bill out as Leave to Withdraw. The House rejected that report and substituted the bill for the Leave to Withdraw report. The bill was then amended in the House (H-749) to delete all but Part J, providing reimbursement to municipalities for administrative General Assistance expenses. That section was reworded and enacted.

LD An Act to Amend the General Assistance Laws (Reported LV/WD
1706 Pursuant to Private and Special Law, Chapt. 79 and 131
of 1985)

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
COMMISSION SPONSORED	LV/WD		

SUMMARY

This bill, held over from the 1st Regular Session, represents the legislation proposed by the Minority Report of the Special Select Commission on the Administration and Financing of General Assistance.