

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCES
BILL SUMMARY



JUNE 1987

PREPARED BY:

John Selser, Legislative Analyst

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
STATE HOUSE, STATION 13 AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
(207) 289-1670

HELEN T. GINDER, DIRECTOR
HAVEN WHITESIDE, DEP. DIRECTOR
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DAVID C. ELLIOTT
GRO FLATEBO
MARTHA E. FREEMAN, SR. ATTY.
JERI B. GAUTSCHI
CHRISTOS GIANOPOULOS
WILLIAM T. GLIDDEN, JR.



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

ROOM 101/107
STATE HOUSE STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL.: (207) 289-1670

JULIE S. JONES
JOHN B. KNOX
EDWARD POTTER
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JOHN R. SELSER
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HARTLEY PALLESCHI, JR., RES. ASST.
KATHRYN VAN NOTE, RES. ASST.

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
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JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
JUNE 1987

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 if it is a floor amendment or the designation "COMMITTEE" if it is a committee amendment.

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

Please let us know if you would prefer a different format or additional information and if the summaries are helpful.

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-A	Ought to Pass as Amended
ONTP	Ought Not to Pass
LVWD	Leave to Withdraw
INDEF PP	Indefinitely Postponed

Part F indexes the AFDC standard of need in order to keep pace with inflation. The standard of need will be increased each year by the rate of inflation during the previous fiscal year.

Part G provides an AFDC special needs supplement to help AFDC recipients meet the cost of shelter. Up to \$100 a month would be available for an AFDC family whose shelter costs exceeded 75% of their total income.

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 at 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.

LD
1706

AN ACT TO AMEND THE GENERAL ASSISTANCE LAWS
(PURSUANT TO A STUDY COMMISSION)

CARRY-OVER

Sponsor: MANNING
Committee Report: CARRY-OVER

SUMMARY: This bill represents the legislation proposed by the Minority 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 amends the residency requirements in regard to determining which municipality is responsible for General Assistance applicants. In the past there has been some confusion among municipalities regarding residency and assistance to relocate as relates to the General Assistance program. This part amends that law (1) to clarify the existing language wherever possible without changing the

meaning and (2) to provide a procedure to resolve disputes between municipalities concerning which municipality is responsible.

Part C prohibits hospital expenses from being billed to a municipality's General Assistance program.

Part D prohibits general assistance disbursements in the form of cash.

Part E 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 at 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.

LD 1727 AN ACT RELATING TO CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS FOR ACCESS FOR HANDICAPPED PERSONS TO PUBLIC FACILITIES PL 1987 c. 357

Sponsor: MACBRIDE, Gill, Gauvreau, Taylor
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 1539

SUMMARY: The original bill sought to amend the current law regarding construction standards for making facilities accessible to the physically handicapped to reflect newly published specifications and future revisions. The new draft accomplishes that purpose by authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Public Improvement to amend the standards by rule.

LD 1742 RESOLVE, TO ESTABLISH THE MAINE COMMISSION TO REVIEW OVERCROWDING AT THE AUGUSTA MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE AND THE BANGOR MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE RESOLVE 1987 c. 56 EMERGENCY

Sponsor: PRAY, Bustin, Hickey, Paradis P
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 607
Amendments Adopted:
H-302 MANNING
S-269 PEARSON

SUMMARY: The original bill, established a special commission to review overcrowding at the Augusta Mental Health Institute and the Bangor Mental Health Institute. The House amendment added additional members to the Commission. The Senate amendment changed the appropriation and the reporting date.