

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
BUSINESS LEGISLATION
BILL SUMMARY



JUNE 1987

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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

This bill appears to required that for the current year the Secretary of State is not required to issue such certificates until Sept.1 of the year. According to the Secretary of State the purpose of the bill is to allow his office to issue such certificates until Sept. 1 without verifying that a report has been filed. The reason for the bill is a staff reduction in the Secretary's office.

This was an after deadline bill and was not heard by the Committee.

LD
1828

AN ACT TO AMEND THE MAINE OPTOMETRIC CODE

PL 1987
c. 439

Sponsor: ROLDE, Berube, McGowan, Curran
Committee Report: New Draft of LD 1028

SUMMARY: This bill allows optometrists to prescribe medication for the treatment of eye problems upon issuance of a special license by the Board of Optometry. This approval is contingent upon completion of a federal and board approved course.

Currently optometry is defined in statute as consisting of examination, correctional treatment without drugs or surgery, and fitting of glasses. A topically administered anesthetic may be administered for examination purposes. To qualify for licensure by the State a person must be a graduate of a recognized school of optometry and have passed a board-designed examination.

The current law regarding diagnostic drugs is fairly specific in defining the permissible drugs and the purposes for use. This proposed legislation is much broader as to the allowable medications and purposes for use.

This new draft authorizes optometrists to utilize topical therapeutic pharmaceuticals in the diagnosis and treatment of diseases and conditions of the human eye except glaucoma. This bill does not extend authority to utilize other than topical medications or surgical authority to optometrists.

Optometrists will be held to the same standard of care as physicians. To be eligible to use pharmaceuticals, optometrists will have to be certified by the Board of Optometry and will have to complete an examination and transcript quality course and have 1 year of experience as an optometrist. Continuing education requirements are set forth in the bill as well.

A monitoring panel has also been created to develop data on the use of pharmaceuticals by optometrists under the provisions of this bill and to report on those results to the Legislature, the Governor and the Board of Optometry and Registration in Medicine.

LD AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE APPLICABILITY OF SOCIAL PL 1987
1876 WORKER LICENSURE REQUIREMENT TO STATE c. 537
 EMPLOYEES

Sponsor: MARTIN, J., Perkins, Pray, Murphy, T.
Committee Report: NOT REFD TO COMTE

SUMMARY: Public Law 1985, Chapter 736 which became law in July of 1986 required that all social workers be licensed and required, as a minimum, that the applicant have a bachelor's degree in social work and have completed a board administered examination. In a rather loosely written section, the examination requirement was waived for persons employed as social workers at the time of passage of the act if they applied for licensure prior to July 1, 1987. This bill extends this deadline to February 1, 1988.

This bill has some hidden fiscal implications and has a relationship to LD 1350 of this year.

1. At the time of the passage of last years legislation the fee for the lowest level license was \$50. It is now \$70, per LD 1350.
2. The emergency preamble to LD 1876 says that the costs of registration of state employed social workers is not in this year's state budget. In fact, the State does not pay such fees. If it did, delaying the requirement for registration would burden the State with the effect of the fee increase discussed above. And if it is true, the bill should have had a fiscal note providing for such expenditures beginning with February 1, 1988, the day that the requirement will now go into effect.
3. The Statement of Fact indicates that need for State social workers to be licensed is a recent change in interpretation of the law by the Board of Social Worker Registration. In fact, it is a new law which has created this requirement.
4. The budgetary projections supplied as justification for LD 1350 contained the registration fees assuming adherence to the July 1 deadline. This bill could have the effect of reducing board revenues for this fiscal year by as much as \$20,000.