

# 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::*

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

*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.*

LD An Act to Develop a Program for Prenatal Detection of  
2302 Handicapping Conditions

LV/WD

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
GILL	LV/WD		
CLARK N			
HIGGINS			
DIAMOND			

SUMMARY

This bill sought to establish a screening program to detect elevated levels of alpha-fetoprotein to help prevent handicapping conditions, and authorize the Department of Human Services to adopt rules to regulate the program and provide for patient support services.

**LD** An Act to Respond to Health Care Occupation Shortages in  
**2304** Maine through the Health Occupations Training Project

PUBLIC  
777

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
GILL	OTP-AM	MAJ	S-468 MAJ REP
MANNING	OTP-AM	MIN	S-513 PEARSON
GAUVREAU			
PINES			

SUMMARY

This bill sought to provide a short-term, immediate response to the shortage of personnel in certain health care occupations. It established 3 programs.

1. A job and skill training program for certified nurses aides and home health care aides;
2. A job and skill training program for certain technical, hospital based occupations; and
3. An educational loan program for nurses.

The majority committee report (S-468), which was accepted, made several technical language changes and established the Department of Labor and the Department of Human Services as the Coordinating Agencies. Certification for training will be granted by the Department of Educational & Cultural Services. The majority report, as in the original bill, funded the nurse loan program by passing through the costs as an adjustment by the Maine Health Care Finance Commission.

The minority committee report (S-469) differed from the majority report only in that the nurse loan program would have been funded through a General Fund appropriation.

All three programs are sunsetted in 3 years.

The Senate amendment (S-513) removed the appropriation to the Department of Labor, which was included in the supplemental budget.

Another amendment (S-490), which was not adopted, would have eliminated the nurse loan payback program.

**LD      An Act to Establish the Additional Support for People in      PUBLIC**  
**2390 Retraining and Education Program      856**

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>	
FOSS	OTP-AM	MAJ	H-770	MAJ REP
GLIDDEN	OTP-AM	MIN	H-780	MANNING
NADEAU G G			S-542	PEARSON
DUTREMBLE D				

**SUMMARY**

This bill enacted the Additional Support for People in Retraining and Education Program (ASPIRE). This bill was the subject of many deliberations by the committee. The final version, as amended, provided as follows:

1. authorizes the Department of Human Services to participate in the determination of eligibility for various subsidies of telephone costs for low-income people as established by the Public Utilities Commission.

2. authorizes the Department of Human Services to seek a waiver from federal regulations regarding eligibility requirements for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) benefits. If the waiver is approved, recipients with children as young as 3 years old would be required to register in the ASPIRE Program in order to be eligible for AFDC benefits. Current law would require recipients with children as young as 6 years old to register in the ASPIRE Program. Certain exemptions which exist in the current federal laws and regulations would still apply to the recipients with the younger children. Recipients who have children with special needs will not be required to register. Under this bill, recipients who volunteer are given priority for the ASPIRE Program support and services.

3. enacts a mandatory registration requirement for the Family Services Program (FSP) for teenage parents who are recipients of AFDC. Failure to register and actively participate in the program will not result in ineligibility for basic AFDC benefits; however, supplemental support services, such as child care and transportation, may be withheld pending participation in the program.

4. includes first-time pregnant women in the AFDC program during the last trimester of their pregnancy.

5. requires the Department of Human Services to notify the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources of any request for waivers from the Federal Government concerning the AFDC, WEET, and ASPIRE Program and the Emergency Assistance Program.