

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.

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.

6. establishes the ASPIRE Program. The components of this proposal, under this amendment, are as follows:

A. The goal of the ASPIRE Program is to assist people in getting a job which pays well enough to support their family without public assistance and to increase their basic life skills and self-confidence.

B. It shall be administered by the Department of Human Services and jointly operated by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Labor and other state agencies having ASPIRE Program responsibilities.

C. The Department of Human Services and the ASPIRE Program recipient shall enter into a contract to provide ASPIRE Program support and services to help the client meet their program goals.

D. Services and support shall be provided under the AFDC and the JTPA programs. The program shall be jointly operated by the Department of Labor and the Department of Human Services. The State will be divided into areas where the Department of Labor and the Department of Human Services jointly provide services and areas where the Department of Labor provides services under contract with the Department of Human Services.

E. Transitional support services such as transportation, respite care and child care shall be provided to ASPIRE Program recipients who become employed and lose their AFDC eligibility. Respite care has also been added as a support service under the AFDC.

F. The ASPIRE Program will provide extended medical assistance for ASPIRE Program recipients who become employed and lose their eligibility for Medicaid. The medical assistance shall be the same as if the family were receiving cash assistance under AFDC. Families with income under 110% of the federal poverty income guidelines will not be required to pay any premium, deductibles or copayments. Families with income of 110% to 150% of the federal poverty income guidelines will pay a portion of the premium, based on their earnings. Families with income over 150% of the federal poverty guidelines will not receive a supplement. The supplement shall be available for up to 12 months after the recipient becomes ineligible for AFDC benefits. Federal changes in the Medicaid program are anticipated within the next year. The medical assistance component of the ASPIRE Program will sunset June 30, 1989.

G. No ASPIRE Program participant shall be ineligible for assistance for failure to participate, if that participation is based on just cause as defined by this bill.

The Department of Human Services shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources on the implementation of this program by February 14, 1990. The ASPIRE Program is repealed July 1, 1990.