

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
114TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION



BILL SUMMARY
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HUMAN RESOURCES

JULY 1989

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* Denotes Chair

Staff: Julie S. Jones, Principal Analyst
Annika Lane, Legislative Analyst

Office of Policy & Legal Analysis
Room 101, State House Sta. 13
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 289-1670

MARTHA E. FREEMAN, DIRECTOR
WILLIAM T. GLIDDEN, PRINCIPAL ANALYST
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STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS
ROOM 101/107/135
STATE HOUSE STATION 13
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333
TEL: (207) 289-1670

ANNIKA E. LANE
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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
AUGUST 1989

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 for 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 abbreviated 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 Research Assistant Barbara McGinn, and secretaries: Charlene Brann, and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

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

LD 241 An Act to Prohibit Smoking in Enclosed Areas on Ferries

PUBLIC 210

SPONSOR(S)
RAND
TITCOMB
MANNING
DELLERT

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-200

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits smoking in enclosed areas on ferries. The Committee Amendment (H-200) restricts the application of the bill to enclosed areas "in which the public is allowed." It also provides a \$100 fine for the person smoking and a ferry operator who does not post "no smoking" signs in appropriate locations.

LD 264 An Act to Amend the Interpreter Service for the Hearing Impaired

PUBLIC 36

SPONSOR(S)
CLARK N
GILL
WEBSTER M
KETOVER

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill eliminates the maximum hourly rate for interpreter services for the deaf and hearing impaired.

LD 276 An Act to Provide a Special Adjustment for Border Hospitals Experiencing Economic Hardship

PUBLIC 494
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
ROLDE
ESTES
MCPHERSON
FARNUM

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-598

SUMMARY

The original bill would have permitted the York Hospital to be essentially exempt from regulation by the Maine Health Care Finance Commission. The Committee Amendment (H-598) permits the Commission to make a special adjustment to the extent that a border hospital acted reasonably and necessarily in incurring extraordinary costs in response to unique circumstances affecting border hospitals.

LD 299 An Act Pertaining to Breast Cancer Treatment

PUBLIC 291

SPONSOR(S)
CROWLEY
CLARK N
GILL
MANNING

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM MAJ
ONTP MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-341 MAJ REP

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a method of ensuring that persons with breast cancer receive information necessary

to give an informed consent to treatment. The proposal is based on the law in effect since 1986 in Michigan. It requires physicians to provide breast cancer patients with oral information and written materials explaining alternative methods of treatment. These materials could be either a standardized written summary developed by the Bureau of Health or a brochure obtained through organizations such as the National Cancer Institute or the American Cancer Society. Failure of a physician to abide by the provisions of this bill could result in disciplinary action by the Board of Registration in Medicine or the Board of Osteopathic Examination and Registration. Patients receiving information as required by this bill would be barred from bringing a civil action against the physician for failure to obtain informed consent by failing to provide information on alternative forms of treatment. Nothing in this section is intended to restrict or limit the rights of a patient under common law.

LD 313 An Act to Expand the Types of Medication Included in the PUBLIC 563
Elderly Low-cost Drug Program

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
DORE	OTP	H-61 MANNING
BURKE		S-422 PEARSON

SUMMARY

This bill includes anticoagulant drugs in the elderly low-cost drug program.

LD 320 An Act to Increase the License Fees for Hospitals and Long- PUBLIC 136
term Care Facilities

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
PERKINS	OTP-AM	S-61
DIPIETRO		
PINES		

SUMMARY

The original bill would change licensing fees for operating a hospital or nursing home to \$5 per bed. The Committee Amendment (S-61) increases the fees to \$10 per bed. It also expands licensing provisions to include state hospitals and nursing homes, but exempts state hospitals from paying licensing fees.

LD 340 An Act to Revise the Eligibility Requirements for Elderly CARRY OVER
Low-cost Drug Recipients EMERGENCY

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
BERUBE		
GILL		
CHONKO		
PERKINS		

SUMMARY

This bill would change income eligibility levels for the elderly low-cost drug program. It was rereferred to the Appropriations Committee.