

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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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.

SPONSOR(S)
MANNING
BURKE
COLLINS
TWITCHELL

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-190
S-177 CLARK N

SUMMARY

This bill requires the establishment of a smoking policy in enclosed common areas of shopping malls. The policy must provide for smoking in designated areas only and the posting of notices in all nonsmoking areas. It also provides that in areas where food or beverages are served the law relating to smoking in restaurants applies.

SPONSOR(S)
HOLT
TITCOMB
KILKELLY
HOLLOWAY

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would require operators of nuclear power plants to use and maintain 2 strip chart recorders to record levels of radiation at various points throughout the plants. Under this bill, the State Nuclear Safety Inspector must monitor the use of these recorders daily. Records generated by the recorders must be made available to the public and kept for at least 2 years at the Office of Nuclear Safety during regular business hours.

This bill was carried over to the next session.

LD 1065

SPONSOR(S)
MARTIN J
PERKINS
CARROLL D
LISNIK

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill would direct the Department of Human Services to increase the Medicaid payment rate to long-term care facilities to reflect the facilities' actual costs, measured on January 1, 1989, for wages and benefits. If a facility can demonstrate that its costs for wages and benefits on January 1, 1989, does not accurately reflect market conditions, the department is authorized to provide additional increases.

This bill would also require that the department and each long-term care facility share equally any costs for wages and benefits in excess of the amount of reimbursement for wages and benefits. In addition, it would direct the department to remove the optional Medicare cap on a facility's routine service costs.

Finally, the bill would establish a common wage proxy system for health care workers that will allow nursing homes to increase wages annually at rates consistent with increases paid to hospital employees.

This bill was indefinitely postponed before reference to Committee.

LD 1071 An Act to Authorize the Department of Human Services to Implement the Provisions of the United States Family Support Act of 1988

INDEF PP
EMERGENCY

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
FOSS	OTP-AM MAJ	H-592 MAJ REP
CAHILL P	OTP-AM MIN	
BRANNIGAN		
DAGGETT		

SUMMARY

The original bill makes changes in the Additional Support for People in Retraining and Education (ASPIRE) Program to implement the provisions of the United States Family Support Act of 1988 and to take advantage of expanded federal funding for employment training and education programs and transitional services for recipients of benefits of Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

Both Committee amendments combine provisions from LDs 1385 and 1494.

The majority Committee Amendment (H-592) generally requires the Department to adopt options under federal law which provide the maximum benefits and flexibility for program recipients. It also makes changes in the ASPIRE program intended to provide greater coordination of education and retraining needs.

The minority Committee Amendment (H-593) generally permits the Department of Human Services discretion on the adoption of federal options.

This bill was incorporated into the Part II budget (LD 640) and generally retained only those provisions of the bill which were "procedural" in nature.

LD 1074 An Act Relating to the Maine Commission on Mental Health

PUBLIC 335
EMERGENCY

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
BUSTIN	OTP-AM	H-387 MANNING
TITCOMB		S-166
BURKE		
PEDERSON		

SUMMARY

This bill adds two additional members to the Maine Commission on Mental Health and provides that there will be at least two members of the commission who are primary consumers of mental health services and two members who are secondary consumers of mental health services. It clarifies that the Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Retardation is required, with the assistance of the Maine Commission on Mental Health, to establish standards of care for patients at the mental health institutes. It also clarifies access of commission members to confidential information and makes more general the authority of the Maine Commission on Mental Health to prepare legislation to implement its recommendations.