

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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Sen. Edwin C. Randall

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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
ULIE S. JONES, 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
EDWARD POTTER
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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 1286 An Act Relating to Smoking in Nursing Homes and Boarding
Care Facilities

INDEF PP

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
BOUTILIER	OTP-AM	H-288
ROLDE		H-433 MANNING
HEPBURN		

SUMMARY

This bill would prohibit smoking by visitors and personnel in nursing homes and personnel in boarding care facilities. Residents in nursing homes and visitors and residents in boarding homes would be permitted to smoke only in specifically designated smoking areas.

LD 1319 An Act to Institute the Orderly Development of New Medical
Technology and Services

LV/WD

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
BOUTILIER	LV/WD	
ROLDE		
PENDLETON		
RANDALL		

SUMMARY

This bill would establish a Medical Technology Advisory Panel to review and approve the use of new medical services and new medical technology. The panel would examine new medical technology costing over \$1,000,000 and services costing over \$1,000 not yet offered in Maine. The panel would make recommendations to the Maine Health Policy Advisory Council, 3rd-party payors, the Governor and the Legislature. If providers establish new technology or services without the recommendation of the panel, 3rd-party payors are prohibited from paying for the technology or services for at least one year. Under this approach, the payors are required to pay for the services or technology when the proposals are accepted and implemented. Payors are also given state authority to rely on the recommendations of the panel.

In addition, the bill would authorize the Department of Human Services to institute a request for proposals process in order to encourage the establishment of a new technology or new service where the panel has determined that it is needed and not yet available.

LD 1324 An Act Relating to the Status of Nursing Professions in
Maine (Reported Pursuant to Resolves 1987, Chapter 106)

PUBLIC 579

<u>SPONSOR(S)</u>	<u>COMMITTEE REPORT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</u>
	OTP-AM	H-453
		S-425 PEARSON

SUMMARY

This bill implements the majority recommendations of the Commission to Study the Status of Nursing Professions in Maine by:

Creating a loan program to encourage higher education in health-care-related subject areas in this State and providing scholarships for Maine Vocational-Technical Institute nursing students who enroll in certified nursing assistant courses which can be used for advanced placement if the students decide to continue their nursing education;

Encouraging the Maine Vocational-Technical Institute System to develop coordinated CNA and associate degree in nursing programs to enhance the career ladder options of nurses;

Requiring the Department of Labor to compile a state health care occupations manual;

Requiring the Maine Health Care Finance Commission to grant adjustments to hospitals' financial requirements to support the hiring of additional personnel who would relieve nurses and other medical professionals of responsibility for tasks that do not require their professional skills and to recognize increases in fringe benefits for nurses and other medical professionals to enhance retention and recruitment efforts;

Requiring that agencies providing temporary nursing staff must be licensed as home health care agencies and must provide training comparable to that required of the agencies to which temporary nursing staff are provided;

Expanding the Health Occupations Training (HOT) Program by adding a fund to provide money for upgrading education for employees who work in facilities that have reached their capped expenditure levels and by expanding the type of training that would be eligible;

Allowing registered nurses to delegate authority to licensed practical nurses to supervise certified nursing assistants;

Requiring that nurses who are employed in hospitals within one year of graduating from nursing school complete a 3-month preceptorship;

Requiring the Maine Health Policy Advisory Council to monitor and evaluate implementation of the recommendations of the Commission to Study the Status of Nursing Professions in Maine; and

Appropriating funds to establish a nursing research and practice center at a campus of the University of Maine System.

The majority Committee Amendment (H-453) changes the original bill relating to eligibility for the Maine Choice Program. It provides for registration, rather than licensing of temporary nurse agencies. It also provides a smaller expansion of the HOT Program, deletes nursing ladder scholarships, requires orientation programs for new nurses and provides for the Maine Health Policy Advisory Council to plan for a nursing research and practice center.

The Senate Amendment (S-425) delays implementation of the Maine Choice Program and preparation of the health care occupation manual. It eliminates assistance to facilities unable to participate in the HOT program, requires the office of Health Planning and Development to assist with a request for proposals for a nursing research and practice center and provides that the services of the Maine Health Policy Advisory Council shall be provided within available resources. It also removes the appropriation and allocation sections.

See also LDs 913, 1268 and 1591.