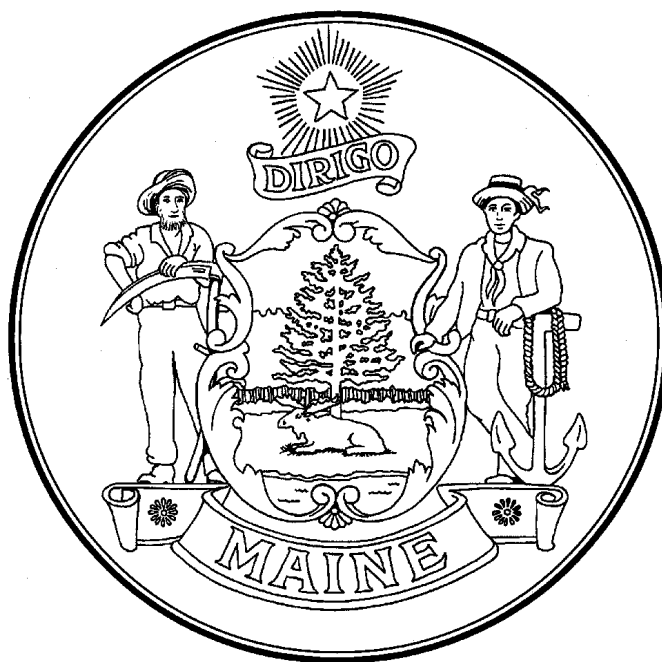


# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
114TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**



**BILL SUMMARY  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
PART I - STATE GOVERNMENT**

**JULY 1989**

**MEMBERS**

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Sen. Donald E. Esty, Jr.  
Sen. David L. Carpenter

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Rep. Dorothy A. Rotondi  
Rep. Beverly C. Daggett  
Rep. Dan A. Gwadosky  
Rep. Conrad Heeschen  
Rep. Anne M. Larrivee  
Rep. Alberta M. Wentworth  
Rep. Jeanne F. Begley  
Rep. Dana C. Hanley  
Rep. John S. McCormick, Jr.

\* Denotes Chair

Staff: Ted Potter, Legislative Analyst

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

MARTHA E. FREEMAN, DIRECTOR  
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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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HARTLEY PALLESCHI, JR., RES. ASST

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.

5. That the Joint Select Committee with the assistance of the Commissioner and the Commissioners of Human Services, Education, Corrections and Mental Health and Retardation develop a plan for the creation and operation of the department. The Committee would submit an initial report by January 1, 1990, and a final report no later than March 31, 1990.

The Committee amendment retained the focus of the bill and made a number of technical changes. This amendment changed the name of the department to the Department of Families and Children. Under the amendment, the Joint Select Committee on Families and Children is charged with the preparation of a plan to unify and consolidate several state agency activities currently serving families and children into a functionally integrated cabinet level department. The plan will define the department's purpose as the enhancement of human development and functioning of families, the amelioration of family or child disabilities and will outline administrative principles to guide the department's operation.

The Appropriations Committee carried the bill over.

**LD 1670      An Act to Establish the Whistleblower Hotline**

**ONTP**

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

PRAY

ONTP

MARTIN J

SUMMARY

LD 1670 proposed to establish a "hotline" by which individuals may report abuse of authority, mismanagement, fraud, and waste in State government to the Office of Fiscal and Program Review. The identity of informants would be confidential at the request of the informants. If the Office staff determined that there was reasonable cause to believe that the information reported was correct, the staff is would report this information to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Committee on Audit and Program Review.

The Office of Fiscal and Program Review would submit a report by January 1, 1991 concerning the "hotline" and its effectiveness.

Employers would be prohibited from discriminating against any employee who, in good faith, reports abuse, waste, fraud, and mismanagement in State government.

**LD 1736      An Act to Change the Status of a Newly Established Position**

**LV/WD**

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

EMERSON

LV/WD

TARDY

WHITCOMB

SUMMARY

LD 1736 proposed to convert a position, Director of Planning and Information, in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, from the classified service to an unclassified major policy-influencing position serving at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

The bill also created additional Deputy Commissioners as policy-influencing positions within the department.

The bill failed to receive Committee approval because the designation of some positions as main policy influencing positions did not appear to accurately reflect the responsibilities of these positions.