

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
115TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HUMAN RESOURCES**

AUGUST 1991

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
AND
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES
AUGUST 1991**

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 volume is organized alphabetically by committee; within each committee, the summaries are arranged by LD number. A subject index is provided at the beginning of each committee's summaries.

All adopted amendments are listed, by paper number (e.g., H - 584 or S - 222), together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

PUBLIC XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
P&S XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
RESOLVE XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
CON RES XXX	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
EMERGENCY	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
CARRIED OVER	<i>Bill carried over to 2nd Session</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
LVWD	<i>Leave to Withdraw report accepted</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
VETO SUSTAINED	<i>Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto</i>
UNSIGNED	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	<i>Action incomplete when 1st session ended</i>

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. But, this document was produced by the efforts of all the office staff, including secretaries: Charlene Raymond and Valarie Parlin, and especially Laurette Knox who coordinated preparation of the overall document.

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

issue bonds (previously limited to hospitals, nursing homes and higher education facilities) and allows mental health centers to access loans at a more favorable rate than can be obtained from a commercial lender.

Committee Amendment A (H-49) clarifies the type of community mental health facility which is eligible under the bill. (See LD 1262)

LD 403 **An Act to Enhance Medical and Social Services for Maine's Long-term Care Consumers (Reported Pursuant to Resolve 1989, chapter 58)** **CARRIED OVER**

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

SUMMARY

This bill is presented by the Commission to Study the Level of Services for Maine's Elderly Citizens. It implements the Commission's recommendations in the areas of medical and social services.

The bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session and the Committee has requested authorization for a summer staff study regarding one of the bill's elements, the Drugs for Maine's Elderly Program.

LD 419 **An Act Concerning Requests for Treatment Records** **PUBLIC 142**

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
MANNING OTP-AM H-157
PENDLETON
GAUVREAU

SUMMARY

The bill requires health care practitioners to release a patient's records upon the request of that patient and provides a civil penalty of \$100 per day for failure to comply with the requirement. Health care practitioners include physicians, nurses, podiatrists, dentists, chiropractors and psychologists.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-157) replaces the original bill. It allows practitioners, as an option, to supply a narrative summary of the patient's record rather than the actual record. This gives the practitioner an opportunity to protect third parties who may be named in the records and to exclude information when the practitioner finds it therapeutically necessary. The amendment also cross-references the existing law that permits minors to consent to medical care in certain instances and the existing law regarding disclosure of HIV test results to clarify that there is no intent to change those provisions. The amendment decreases the penalty to \$25 per day with a maximum forfeiture of \$100. (See LD 421)