

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.

LD 542 An Act to Ban Smoking in Laundromats

ONTP-MIN REP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BUSTIN	OTP-AM MAJ	
MANNING	ONTP MIN	

SUMMARY

This bill prohibits smoking in a self-service laundry.

Committee Amendment "A" adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 558 An Act Concerning Late Support Payments

PUBLIC 329

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MORRISON	OTP-AM	H-221
DUPLESSIS		H-336 MANNING

SUMMARY

Currently, to receive aid to families with dependent children benefits, the recipient must agree to have the department collect any support payments that are owed by the responsible parent. If the payment is not received by the department until later than the month when the payment was due, the department does not pay the recipient the amount of the support that is greater than the aid to families with dependent children grant amount, but less than the "full standard of need" as set by the department. This bill requires the Department of Human Services to pay the full amount of "pass through" and "gap" payments, regardless of when the responsible parent made the support payment or when the department received the payment.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-221) replaces the original bill. It requires that, by July 1, 1992, all notices given by the Department of Human Services in support collection cases have a readability level of no higher than 6th-grade reading level. It also requires the department to notify responsible parents that late support payments may be retained by the department rather than being "passed through" to the child. The amendment also adds a fiscal note and appropriation to the Department of Human Services to cover the costs of rewriting forms to conform with the 6th grade readability requirement.

House Amendment "A" (H-336) amends Committee amendment A. It allows the Department of Human Services to make its notices readable at a 6th-grade level within existing resources over time as it changes its forms. Because an appropriation is no longer required, the amendment strikes the appropriation and allocation sections and replaces the fiscal note.

LD 565 An Act to Clarify the Licensing Status of Acute Care Units at State Mental Health Institutes

**PUBLIC 104
EMERGENCY**

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
PENDLETON	OTP-AM	H-82
GILL		
BOUTILIER		
BALDACCI		

SUMMARY

This bill clarifies that the hospital licensing requirement applies only to acute care units when applied to state mental health institutes. This bill also resolves a conflict created in the Second Regular Session of the 114th Legislature by incorporating language from both Public Law 1989, chapter 875 and Public Law 1989, chapter 878.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-82) replaces the original bill. Rather than limiting hospital licensure to acute care units of state mental health institutes, the amendment requires the Department of Human Services to adopt licensing rules that are specific to the unique characteristics of the state mental health institutes. The amendment also allows the Department of Human Services to extend the provisional licenses of the institutes until the new rules are adopted. The amendment also adds an emergency preamble and fiscal note to the bill.

LD 574 An Act to Provide More Adequate Funding for Contracted Human LV/WD
Service Programs

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CARROLL D FOSTER	LV/WD	

SUMMARY

This bill makes appropriations to the Department of Corrections, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to provide cost-of-living increases for contracted social services in accordance with the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

LD 578 An Act to Ensure That Inflationary and Demographic Trends LV/WD
Are Reflected in Home-based Care Funding

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BRANNIGAN MANNING CONLEY GILL	LV/WD	

SUMMARY

This bill annually indexes funds for the in-home and community support services program to reflect an increase in the number of people between the ages of 75 and 85, wage inflation and an increase in the length or intensity of services that are attributable to advances in medical technology. The program provides in-home services to people who are older or who have a physical disability.

LD 579 An Act to Appropriate Funds for At-risk Youths and Families CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BRANNIGAN CHONKO POULIOT DUTREMBLE L		

SUMMARY

This bill provides funds in fiscal year 1992-93 for prevention and support services in public housing projects in the Portland area. The bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.