

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 763 An Act to Appropriate State Funds to Enable the Bureau of Medical Services to Implement Consumer-directed Attendant Services in its State Plan

LV/MD

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
SMALL	LV/WD	

SUMMARY

This bill provides state matching funds to the Department of Human Services to enable it to offer consumer-directed attendant care services to people who are eligible for Medicaid. The funds are necessary to draw down federal funds.

LD 787 An Act to Clarify Certain Provisions of the Hospital Care Financing System and Provide for Systematic Consideration of Consumer Viewpoints by the Maine Health Care Finance Commission

PUBLIC 84

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MANNING GAUVREAU	OTP	

SUMMARY

This bill adds the Consumer Advisory Committee to the Maine Health Care Finance Commission to ensure the continued participation of consumer interests in the development of the commission's policy. It also clarifies the statutory description of the monetary threshold for special exception adjustments to hospital financial requirements, specifying that the monetary threshold applies to the major reasonable expense increases on which the request is based, after offsetting any expense savings but before considering the other statutory criteria, which require an evaluation of overall hospital operations. The bill also clarifies the statutory description of the debit made for an approved certificate of need project. Eliminating the word "fiscal" removes any doubt that the approved costs for the 3rd full year of the project should form the basis for the debit.

LD 800 An Act to Protect the Public Health by Strengthening Maine's Radiation Protection Program

PUBLIC 496

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
HOLT KILKELLY COLES FOSTER	OTP-AM	H-631

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant to install, maintain and upgrade gaseous and liquid effluent monitoring systems capable of identifying and measuring the radioactive isotopes and radioactivity of gaseous and liquid emissions from the plant. The monitoring systems would be controlled on site by a computer that continuously transmits data from the monitoring systems over a dedicated telephone line to the State Nuclear Safety Inspector, the Director of the Bureau of Health Engineering in the Department of Human Services and the Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-350) was reported by a majority of the committee. It was reconsidered when this bill was recommitted to committee.

Upon reconsideration, Committee Amendment "B" (H-631) was reported unanimously. It replaces the on-line, automated liquid and gaseous effluent monitoring systems required by the original bill with an enhancement of the current radiation monitoring system to allow 24-hour-per-day coverage of monitors. Fees paid by the Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant are increased in fiscal year 1991-92 to pay for new equipment required. This amendment also provides for a study of the adequacy of existing radiation monitoring systems in place at Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant.

LD 817 An Act to Expedite Repairs of Equipment Needed by Supplemental Security Income Recipients LV/WD

SPONSOR(S) TITCOMB BUSTIN LARRIVEE MELENDY	COMMITTEE REPORT LV/WD	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
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SUMMARY

When this bill was presented, prior approval was required for any Medicaid-funded repair of equipment that cost more than \$100. The bill eliminates this prior approval requirement for recipients of federal supplemental security income benefits. The Department of Human Services is addressing the prior approval issue through rule making.

LD 826 An Act to Provide More Equitable Reimbursement for Boarding Homes Serving Persons with Mental Retardation LV/WD

SPONSOR(S) CARROLL D MANNING CLARK M	COMMITTEE REPORT LV/WD	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
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SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Human Services to reimburse boarding home operators for certain expenses that are not currently reimbursed. Specifically, the bill requires the department to reimburse approved general and administrative costs, operating costs for staff who are required to be present at mealtime, reasonable costs for recreation for residents and staff training.

LD 834 An Act to Provide Funding for Certain Mental Health Services ONTP

SPONSOR(S) MANNING MILLS	COMMITTEE REPORT ONTP	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
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SUMMARY

This bill provides funds to the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to provide financial assistance to hospitals located in Portland that treat people with chronic mental illness.