

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.

An Act to Provide that General Assistance Payments be Made in Vouchers and in Greater Compliance with General Assistance Laws

SPONSOR(S)
CLARK M
GOODRIDGE
CONLEY
GEAN

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-220

SUMMARY

This bill provides that municipal general assistance payments must generally be made by vouchers to providers of goods and services rather than by a cash payment to a recipient. The bill further provides that the Department of Human Services may not withhold reimbursement if a municipality is in substantial compliance or unless a municipality has received a written notice of violation of a section of the law and has subsequently violated the same section of the law. The bill also provides that municipalities post a brief notice that gives notice to applicants of their right to file an application, the right to receive a written decision within 24 hours, the right to a fair hearing, as well as the currently required notice of the times applications will be taken, the name and number to contact in emergencies and the department's toll-free number.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-220) removes the bill's requirement that a specific notice be posted in general assistance offices and adds the requirement that the notices presently required include the fact that municipalities must issue general assistance decisions within 24 hours. It also requires that copies of the general assistance laws be provided to municipalities by the Department of Human Services, and it removes a provision in the bill that would have prohibited municipalities from unreasonably restricting the vendors from whom recipients receive goods. It also eliminates provisions in the bill related to municipal compliance and penalties and adds a fiscal note to the bill.

An Act to Clarify the Authority of the Department of Human Services in Conducting Chronic Disease Investigation and Evaluating the Completeness or Data Quality in Disease Surveillance Programs

SPONSOR(S)
CLARK M
BOUTILIER
GILL
MANNING

COMMITTEE REPORT
LV/WD

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill makes clarifying amendments to the statutory authority permitting the Department of Human Services to carry out investigations of chronic diseases and evaluations of completeness of data that health care providers are required to file with the department. The bill clarifies that public health studies must be those which the department is otherwise authorized to carry out and that prior written consent of patients is required except in cases where the department seeks to verify information already on file. In those cases, the law is clarified to limit the department's contacts solely to the patient's health care providers for the purposes of verifying such information. The bill also requires that inquiries seeking consent be channeled through the patient's attending physician.