

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
115TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES

MAY 1992

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**ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
BILL SUMMARIES**

**MAY 1992**

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 far right of the title. Various types of final action are abbreviated as follows:

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

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, 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 1257**

**An Act to Give Legal Effect to General Assistance Decisions  
Made by the Administrative Hearings Unit of the Department  
of Human Services**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**  
MANNING  
CONLEY

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill makes decisions by the Department of Human Services' Administrative Hearings Unit in general assistance cases binding on subsequent general assistance cases involving the same questions of law or administrative interpretation. This bill was carried over from the First Regular Session.

**LD 1420**

**An Act to Correct an Error in the Law Creating a Special  
Housing Allowance**

PUBLIC 628  
EMERGENCY

**SPONSOR(S)**  
MITCHELL E  
STROUT  
CHONKO  
MARTIN J

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-864

**SUMMARY**

This bill shifts the burden for a portion of the shelter cost for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) families from municipalities and the State to the federal government by creating a special housing allowance in the AFDC program. It also maintains the eligibility of Aid to Families with Dependent Children families for the Maine Residents Property Tax Program but provides that payment of that benefit to those families be made through the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program to acquire the benefit of federal matching funds. The bill was carried over from the First Regular Session.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-864) replaces the original bill. It corrects technical errors in the special housing allowance language that was passed in PL 1991, c. 591 and amended in PL 1991, c. 622.

**LD 1543**

**An Act to Facilitate Prompt Child Support Payments from the  
Department of Human Services**

PUBLIC 724  
EMERGENCY

**SPONSOR(S)**  
LAWRENCE  
OLIVER  
GEAN  
CONLEY

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
OTP-AM

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**  
H-892

**SUMMARY**

This bill penalizes the Department of Human Services if it fails to forward collected child support funds within 14 days of receipt by the department unless the department does not have sufficient identifying information or unless a different time period is mandated by federal regulation. The amount of the late fee, which is 10% of the overdue payment, is forwarded to the recipients.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-892) replaces the original bill. The amendment establishes a complaint and inquiry unit within the Department of Human Services, Division of Support Enforcement, to enable the department to address late payments and other issues in the division. The amendment also adds an emergency preamble, emergency clause and fiscal note to the bill.