

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 1210 An Act to Increase Drug and Alcohol Abuse Treatment and Education Services in Maine

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CLARK M BUSTIN ANTHONY PRAY	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill provides funding for substance abuse services throughout the State. Funding is provided for treatment services, prevention and intervention for adolescents, maintenance of existing efforts, equalization of services, development and implementation of a halfway house for pregnant women and mothers of young children and treatment of Department of Corrections clients, including juveniles leaving the Maine Youth Center. To fund these services, prescription drugs susceptible to abuse and schedule W, X, Y and Z drugs sold by prescription are removed from the sales tax exemption currently provided for prescriptions; 50% of the funds raised from property forfeited under court action for illegal drug crimes is directed toward alcohol and other drug abuse treatment and prevention programs; and fees are increased for driver's license renewal and reinstatement fees.

LD 1257 An Act to Give Legal Effect to General Assistance Decisions Made by the Administrative Hearings Unit of the Department of Human Services

CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MANNING CONLEY		

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 has been carried over to the Second Regular Session.

LD 1262 An Act to Enhance Access to Financing for Health Care Facilities

PUBLIC 584

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
MITCHELL E MANNING BRANNIGAN MARTIN J	OTP-AM	H-514

SUMMARY

This bill adds proprietary nursing homes and boarding homes to the list of facilities that may be assisted in financing or refinancing by the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority and creates a reserve fund for the repayment of bonds issued by the authority to finance or refinance health care facilities.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-514) adds provisions to the bill that clarify the ability of the Maine Health and Higher Education Facilities Authority to provide loans to consortia of eligible entities, strikes an obsolete reference to the United States Social Security Act and creates an intercept provision allowing the authority to intercept certain funds if eligible entities are in default or in danger of default on principal or interest payments. The amendment also corrects technical errors in the bill and adds a fiscal note.

LD 1275 An Act to Provide for Continued Assistance and Support for ONTP
Incest Victims and Survivors

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
NORTON	ONTP	
CLARK N		
PRAY		
HOGLUND		

SUMMARY

This bill provides funds to the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to support groups that assist victims of incest.

LD 1282 An Act to Provide Equitable Reimbursement for Capital Costs ONTP
of Nursing Homes

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CLEVELAND	ONTP	
CARROLL D		

SUMMARY

Medicaid currently recognizes the historical cost of a facility and the cost of any renovations. Current owners are allowed straight line depreciation on these costs. When the facility changes ownership, the basis for allowable interest charges and depreciation once again reverts to the original historical cost and any renovations and improvements that were done subsequent to the original acquisition.

This bill requires that the Medicaid program reimburse for capital investment upon sale of a facility at a rate that reflects the historical costs of the prior owner plus the lesser of 1/2 of the percentage increase in the Dodge Construction Index for Nursing Homes or 1/2 of the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index from the date of acquisition by the prior owner to the date of sale. This reimbursement method is specifically permitted under federal law.