

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
116TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HUMAN RESOURCES

JULY 1993

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**ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
BILL SUMMARIES**

JULY 1993

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.

The committee report or reports, the prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor in each house if one has been designated are listed below each bill title. 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:

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

If you have any suggestions or comments on these summaries, please let us know.

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impairment disabilities. People from a broad range of disciplines will go to Pineland Center to receive specialized training in mental retardation and other mental impairment disabilities. The bill also changes the composition of the Pineland Board of Visitors to reflect its expanded role. The bill also requires that, as staff positions are eliminated at Pineland Center, a limited number of new positions is created in the community, and the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation is required to assist displaced Pineland Center workers in making the transition to community-based employment.

Amendment H-436 replaces the original bill. It requires the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to plan for the future of Pineland Center and the mental retardation system and to assess the feasibility of developing 3 state-operated, community-based facilities as part of that plan. The amendment also requires the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to work with the Department of Labor to provide assistance to displaced Pineland Center workers, and to work with the Department of Economic and Community Development and the State Planning Office in seeking economic redevelopment assistance for areas affected by the reduction in capacity of Pineland Center. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 620

**An Act to Clarify What Constitutes an Emergency Regarding
Disconnection of Utility Service for the Emergency
Assistance Program**

PUBLIC 267

SPONSOR(S)
CARPENTER

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill clarifies that utility customers who seek assistance under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 22, section 3761 must show that they are unable to keep the terms of a reasonable payment arrangement, as evidenced by receipt of a disconnection notice, in order to demonstrate that there is an emergency as required in that section. This change is intended to end the Department of Human Services' practice of refusing assistance during the winter period until the utility has applied to the Public Utilities Commission for permission to disconnect the family's electric service. This practice has resulted in customers refusing any payment arrangement to trigger a request to disconnect, thus increasing the unpaid balance and delaying the receipt of assistance.

LD 626

An Act to Amend the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program

PUBLIC 284

SPONSOR(S)
BUSTIN

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-179

SUMMARY

This bill clarifies the ombudsman's authority to have full and continuous access to adult foster care, boarding care and nursing facilities in order to carry out the ombudsman's statutory duties. It also makes clear that the ombudsman has the right to provide information and observe during state surveys or reviews of long-term care facilities. The bill removes the limit on the number of volunteers the ombudsman may certify to assist in the ombudsman's work. Finally, the bill gives the ombudsman expressed authority to copy and inspect the records of long-term care residents who are not competent and have no legal representative available to consent to such inspection and copying.

Amendment S-179 clarifies that volunteers designated by the long-term care ombudsman may not make copies of confidential client information. The amendment also adds a fiscal note to the bill.