

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HUMAN RESOURCES

AUGUST 1995

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

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION BEFORE
THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES**

AUGUST 1995

This document is a compilation of the bill summaries prepared by this office for the Joint Standing 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 publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, is helpful in determining to which committee any particular bill was referred.

In this document, 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, together with the sponsor for floor amendments. Final action on each bill is listed to the right of the title. Various categories of final action are abbreviated as follows:

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

These summaries were prepared by the analyst or analysts assigned to the committee. If more detailed information is needed on a bill, contact the committee analyst.

5581LHS

Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources

LD 43

An Act to Limit Aid to Families with Dependent Children Benefits

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)

CARLETON

COMMITTEE REPORT

ONTP MAJ
OTP-AM MIN

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

The bill directs the Department of Human Services to pursue a federal waiver to provide no additional benefit to most recipients who have additional children while receiving benefits. The bill provides 3 categories of exceptions: (1) a child who is not the biological offspring of a recipient of aid to families with dependent children who comes to reside with the recipient family; (2) a mother of a newborn child who is pregnant with that child at the time she applies for benefits; and (3) a person who meets "good cause" criteria developed by the department.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-593), the minority report, replaces the original bill. It reorganizes and clarifies the provisions of the bill that direct the Department of Human Services to apply for a federal waiver to provide no additional benefit under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program for a recipient who has a child while enrolled in the program, with limited exceptions that include rape and incest. It makes only one addition. The addition is a provision taken from L.D. 1368 that allows a family subject to the limitation on level of benefits to receive child support payments up to the amount by which the benefit level would have been increased but for the limitation provision.

LD 58

An Act to Require State or Independent Fair Hearing Examiners in the Grievance Process of the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation

PUBLIC 15

SPONSOR(S)

BUSTIN

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

S-20

SUMMARY

This bill provides for a state hearing examiner or an independent fair hearing examiner to be part of any grievance resolution for recipients of services from the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. It allows the Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Retardation to contract for these services outside of the department, including the private sector, if a state examiner is not available.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-20) clarifies language in the bill and makes no substantive changes.

LD 65

Resolve, Requiring the State to Fulfill Its Commitment to Provide Adequate Mental Health Services for Senior Citizens in the Eastern Maine Area

DIED BETWEEN
BODIES

SPONSOR(S)

FAIRCLOTH
MICHAUD
SAXL J

COMMITTEE REPORT

OTP-AM A
ONTP B

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This emergency resolve requires the Department of Mental Health and Retardation, Division of Mental Health to fulfill the commitment of the State to provide adequate mental health resources for senior