

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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Sen. John W. Benoit
Sen. Rochelle M. Pingree*

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Staff:

Jane Orbeton, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*

**Denotes Chair*



**Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

State House Station 13, Augusta, Maine 04333
Telephone (207) 287-1670
Telecopier (207) 287-1275

**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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-65) replaces the appropriation section in order to provide funding for 2 years. The House accepted the committee amendment. The Senate accepted the "ought not to pass" report.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-105) strikes the bill and directs the Department of Human Services to contract with the Next Step to provide domestic violence family crisis services within existing state funds. The House and Senate both accepted the House amendment.

LD 128 **An Act to Enhance Access to Ombudsman Program Services for Consumers of Residential Care and Nursing Home Residents** ONTP

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
FITZPATRICK ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill increases the license fee surcharge for nursing homes from \$5 per bed to \$10 per bed and establishes a license fee surcharge for residential care facilities at \$10 per bed in order to offset General Fund appropriations for the Long-term Care Ombudsman Program, which is mandated to advocate on behalf of residents of these facilities.

LD 130 **An Act to Protect Nursing Home Residents** ONTP

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
BERRY ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Department of Human Services to amend the medical criteria for admission to a nursing facility. It gives persons who resided in nursing facilities between July 1, 1993 and the effective date the choice to remain in the facility if they were eligible under the medical criteria used for admission. It requires full reimbursement for services provided to residents of nursing facilities for the time period beginning July 1, 1993 and continuing after the effective date.

LD 132 **An Act to Increase Access to Mental Health Services for Medicaid Recipients** ONTP

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
TOWNSEND ONTP
BUSTIN
DORE

SUMMARY

This bill provides that Medicaid reimbursement for mental health services by licensed clinical social workers and licensed clinical professional counselors may not be conditioned on the services being provided in a hospital or clinic.

LD 134 **An Act to Exempt Certain Small Businesses from Paying the Annual Fee to the Public Drinking Water Fund** CARRIED OVER

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
WHITCOMB