

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HUMAN RESOURCES¹**

JUNE 1996

MEMBERS:

Sen. Joan M. Pendexter, Chair

Sen. John W. Benoit

Sen. Rochelle M. Pingree

Rep. Michael J. Fitzpatrick, Chair

Rep. Birger T. Johnson

Rep. David Etnier

Rep. J. Elizabeth Mitchell

Rep. Kyle W. Jones

Rep. Glenys P. Lovett

Rep. Jeffery G. Joyner

Rep. Jean Ginn Marvin

Rep. Robert J. Winglass

Rep. Henry L. Joy

Staff:

Jane Orbeton, Legislative Analyst

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¹ Amendments to Joint Rule 13 adopted this session changed the committee name to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.



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**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

***Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
June 1996***

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are 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 finally passed 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>

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 4, 1996.

Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources

LD 134 **An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Maine Public
Drinking Water Commission**

PUBLIC 581

Sponsor(s)
WHITCOMB

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-746

LD 134, a bill carried over from the First Regular Session, proposed to exempt small businesses with fewer than 5 employees or with a net income of less than \$15,000 from the fees collected by the Department of Human Services for deposit into the Public Drinking Water Fund. The original title of the bill was “An Act to Exempt Certain Small Businesses from Paying the Annual Fee to the Public Drinking Water Fund.”

Committee Amendment "A" (H-746) is the Majority Report. It replaced the bill and substituted a new title. It proposed to replace the requirement that the Maine Public Drinking Water Commission members be employed by certain drinking water systems with a requirement that they be associated with those same systems. In the provision on duties of the commission, it would have changed the duty of determining program effort to a duty to evaluate program effort and would have changed the standard of performing the duty of determining funding share for each type of public water system from a reflection of program effort to one that recognizes the level of program effort. It would have deleted provisions on the collection of fees by drinking water systems that require the Drinking Water Fund fees to be separately identified on the customer’s bill. It proposed to change the base fee to no more than \$50 and retain the base plus per capita maximum fee at \$30,000 per year.

Enacted law summary

Public law 1995, chapter 581 comprises the provisions from Committee Amendment A. It changes the title of the bill. It replaces the requirement that Maine Public Drinking Water Commission members be employed by certain drinking water systems with a requirement that they be associated with those same systems. In the provision on duties of the commission, it changes the duty of determining program effort to a duty to evaluate program effort and changes the standard of performing the duty of determining funding share for each type of public water system from a reflection of program effort to one that recognizes the level of program effort. It deletes provisions on the collection of fees by drinking water systems that require the Drinking Water Fund fees to be separately identified on the customer’s bill. It changes the base fee to no more than \$50 and retains the base plus per capita maximum fee at \$30,000 per year.

LD 271 **An Act to Establish an Electronic Benefit Transfer System
for Programs Administered by State Government**

PUBLIC 675

Sponsor(s)
MORRISON

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-842

LD 271, a bill carried over from the First Regular Session, proposed to establish an electronic benefit delivery program for the delivery of benefits by automated means to recipients of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children, food stamps, Medicaid and the Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Food programs. An electronic benefit delivery program would enable program recipients to use encoded cards to withdraw benefits from automated teller and

point of service machines on a periodic basis. The bill would have required the Department of Human Services to apply for a waiver to establish the electronic benefit delivery program and would have required that program to be implemented within 90 days of receipt of the waiver. It would have required a report by January 1, 1996, by the Department of Human Services to the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources on progress in implementing the program. The original title of the bill was “An Act to Establish an Electronic Benefit Delivery Program for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Food Stamp, Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Food and Medicaid Programs.”

Committee Amendment "A" (H- 842) is the Majority Report. It replaced the bill. It proposed to remove the waiver application date of October 20, 1995 for the electronic benefit delivery program and authorize the Department of Human Services to establish an electronic benefit transfer system. It would have allowed for participation in the electronic benefit transfer system by departments other than the Department of Human Services and for programs in addition to Aid to Families with Dependent Children, food stamps and Medicaid. It would have removed the Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Food Program from the participating programs. It proposed to change the date for the report to the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources from January 1, 1996 to January 1, 1997. It would have added a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 675 comprises the provisions of Committee Amendment A. It changes the title of the bill. It authorizes the Department of Human Services to establish an electronic benefit transfer system for delivery of benefits under the Medicaid, food stamps and AFDC programs. It allows for participation in the electronic benefit transfer system by other departments and for other programs. It requires a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources on January 1, 1997.

LD 974 An Act to Create an Advisory Board and State and Local ONTP
Interagency Teams to Assist in the Provision of Care for Children
and Adolescents with Severe Emotional Disturbance

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FITZPATRICK	ONTP	

LD 974, a bill carried over from the First Regular Session, proposed to require that a program of integrated case management and services be provided for children and adolescents with severe emotional disturbance. It would have established the State Interagency Team and several local interagency teams to direct and facilitate the delivery of the integrated services. Under the bill, the Commissioner of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Corrections and the Commissioner of Human Services would have been directed, as members of the Interdepartmental Council, to cooperate in the delivery of integrated services, and an advisory committee for the council would have been created.

LD 1601 An Act to Allow Physicians' Offices to Receive Discounts PUBLIC 548
from Pharmaceutical Manufacturers

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
JOHNSON	OTP-AM	H-725