

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

LD 721 An Act to Coordinate Low-income Energy Assistance Programs

DIED BETWEEN
BODIES

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
HARRIMAN	ONTP OTP-AM	MAJ MIN

SUMMARY

This bill requires that local agencies designated as subgrantees under the federal Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program by the Maine State Housing Authority must be able to administer the program at the lowest cost, as determined by a competitive bidding process.

LD 754 An Act to Increase Access to Primary Care by Redefining the Practice of Advanced Nursing

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
BENOIT	ONTP	

SUMMARY

This bill sets up the category of advanced registered nurse practitioners which includes nurse midwives and nurse anesthetists. It requires collaboration with a physician. Nurse practitioners and nurse anesthetists are allowed to prescribe medication. There is a liability provision relative to the collaborating physician. A council is to make recommendations to the boards and the Legislature on all matters, including the drug formulary.

LD 789 An Act Allowing Retailers to Limit the Number of Returnables They Accept

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
HATHAWAY	ONTP	

SUMMARY

Currently dealers may limit the number of beverage containers that they will accept from one consumer to no less than 240.

This bill limits the number of returnable beverage containers that a retailer must accept from one consumer to 24 containers.

LD 800 An Act to Amend the Laws Related to Optometry

PUBLIC 439

SPONSOR(S)	COMMITTEE REPORT	AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
CAMERON	OTP-AM OTP-AM	MAJ MIN H-534 H-558 CAMERON S-357 AMERO

SUMMARY

Current law prohibits the use of surgery, laser or other invasive techniques for care of the eyes by optometrists. This bill changes that prohibition to include invasive surgery only.

With special education, current law allows the use of ocular topical pharmaceutical agents for the treatment of eye conditions or diseases other than glaucoma, except for the use of controlled substances,

injections and agents for the treatment of diseases that affect the entire system. The bill would have allowed the use of any pharmaceutical agent, including Schedule III, IV and V controlled substances, for the treatment of any eye condition including glaucoma.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-534) is the Majority Report. It prohibits the use of tissue-altering lasers and invasive surgery.

This amendment submits to an optometry study panel the issue of extending the types of drugs that optometrists can use, excluding those for the treatment of glaucoma. It allows the treatment of glaucoma beginning October 1, 1996 and submits to the study panel the issue of the qualifications required for an optometrist to be able to treat glaucoma. The Committee is allowed to submit legislation based on the results of this study.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "B" (H-535) is the Minority Report. It prohibits the use of tissue-altering lasers and invasive surgery.

This amendment allows the use of pain relievers for 72 hours after which there must be consultation with or referral to a physician skilled in the treatment of the eye. The amendment removes from the bill the allowance for optometrists to use other oral medications for conditions other than glaucoma.

The amendment submits to the study panel the issue of whether optometrists possess the education and training necessary to treat glaucoma.

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-558) makes it clear that this bill does not affect the current permission of optometrists to use topical drugs and that the study panel is to confine itself to the issue of oral medications.

SENATE AMENDMENT "A" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-333) requires the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development to submit legislation on the qualifications required for the treatment of glaucoma and requires that legislation to have an effective date of October 1, 1996. (Not adopted)

SENATE AMENDMENT "B" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-335) requires the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development to submit legislation on the qualifications required for the treatment of glaucoma and requires that legislation to have an effective date of October 1, 1996. The amendment also places effective dates on the provisions affecting the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 32, section 2411, subsection 3 and section 2417, subsection 6 contingent upon the passage of legislation required of the Committee. (Not adopted)

SENATE AMENDMENT "C" TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-357) requires the Joint Standing Committee on Business and Economic Development to submit legislation on the qualifications required for the treatment of glaucoma and requires that legislation to have an effective date of October 1, 1996. The amendment requires the Board of Optometry not to certify an optometrist to treat glaucoma unless training and education requirements as approved by the Legislature are met.

LD 832 An Act to Protect Natural Gas Customers and the Public ONTP
through Licensing and Regulation of Natural Gas Technicians

SPONSOR(S)
KONTOS

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill requires a license to perform work as a natural gas technician. A combined board with the plumbers is created to oversee this regulation. Qualifications are 2000 hours of experience at the appropriate BTU level under supervision of a licensee and passage of an examination.