

# 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  
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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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i>	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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

**SUMMARY**

This resolve establishes the Task Force to Review Maine's Laws Concerning Involuntary Commitment to identify and review the existing state statutes pertaining to involuntary commitment and submit a report together with any accompanying legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources by January 30, 1996.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-187) adds advocates for clients and families to the membership of the Task Force to Review Maine's Laws Concerning Involuntary Commitment. It also adds a fiscal note to the resolve.

**LD 929      An Act to Legalize the Use of Marijuana for Medical Purposes      ONTP**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
ROTONDI	OTP-AM      MAJ	
	ONTP      MIN	

**SUMMARY**

This bill limits the amount of marijuana that may be legally possessed and clarifies and expands the purposes for which it may be legally possessed. The bill also clarifies the burden of proof of the affirmative defense and provides that smoking marijuana is prohibited under the same circumstances as smoking tobacco. This bill does not affect prosecutions for the trafficking or furnishing of marijuana. The bill also requires that the marijuana must be prescribed by a physician.

See also LD 204 and 784.

**LD 960      An Act to Reimplement Statewide Child Sex Abuse Medical Teams      ONTP**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
MORRISON	ONTP	

**SUMMARY**

This bill provides General Fund appropriations for 10 suspected child abuse and neglect (SCAN) teams statewide to reestablish services that were eliminated during fiscal year 1993-94.

**LD 967      An Act to Amend the Adult Protective Services Act to Allow Referrals of Cases of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation to Law Enforcement Agencies      PUBLIC 183**

<b>SPONSOR(S)</b>	<b>COMMITTEE REPORT</b>	<b>AMENDMENTS ADOPTED</b>
TREAT	OTP	

**SUMMARY**

Currently, the Adult Protective Services Act allows the State's adult protective services programs to make referrals of cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation to district attorneys for investigation and legal action. The purpose of this bill is to streamline that referral process. In some counties, police and sheriff's departments actually do the investigation rather than the district attorney's office, and an initial referral to the district attorney might delay action by law enforcement agencies. This bill allows the state agencies within the Department of Human Services to make referrals to the appropriate law enforcement agency.