

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
JUDICIARY

AUGUST 1995

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Joan M. Pendexter
Sen. Sean F. Faircloth*

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Rep. Frederick Moore III*

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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:

CARRIED OVER	<i>Bill carried over to Second Session</i>
CON RES XXX	<i>Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses</i>
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE	<i>Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died</i>
DIED BETWEEN BODIES	<i>House & Senate disagree; bill died</i>
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT	<i>Action incomplete when session ended; bill died</i>
EMERGENCY	<i>Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days</i>
FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
FAILED ENACTMENT	<i>Bill failed to get majority vote</i>
FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT	<i>Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
INDEF PP	<i>Bill Indefinitely Postponed</i>
ONTP	<i>Ought Not to Pass report accepted</i>
P&S XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law</i>
PUBLIC XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Public Law</i>
RESOLVE XXX	<i>Chapter # of enacted Resolve</i>
UNSIGNED	<i>Not signed by Governor within 10 days</i>
VETO SUSTAINED	<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 1089 **An Act Relating to Hospital Medical Records**

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
HARRIMAN

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

Currently, when a hospital is issued a subpoena for a medical record, the hospital may be required to produce the record immediately. This bill would have allowed the hospital 3 business days to produce the record for the party requesting it.

LD 1092 **Resolve, Directing the Attorney General's Office to Review the Current Definition and Judicial Interpretation of Harassment**

ONTP
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
HANLEY

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This resolve would have required the Department of the Attorney General to review and analyze the harassment laws and judicial interpretations of harassment laws and make a report and recommendations to the Legislature and the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary by December 15, 1995. The Department of the Attorney General would have solicited input from the Judicial Department. The Judiciary Committee has written a letter to the Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court asking that the Court undertake the review and analysis of the protection from harassment laws and report back to the Committee.

LD 1125 **An Act to Implement the Recommendations Resulting from the Study Concerning Parental Rights and Responsibilities When Domestic Abuse is Involved**

PUBLIC 405

SPONSOR(S)

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-621

SUMMARY

This bill implements changes to current domestic relations laws as suggested by the study group formed to examine the issues concerning parental rights and responsibilities in cases of domestic abuse. The study group was authorized by Resolve 1993, chapter 61.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-621) makes several modifications to the original bill, including the following:

1. This amendment transfers the responsibility of developing standards for and then certifying batterers' intervention programs from the Maine Commission on Domestic Abuse to the Department of Public Safety. The Department of Public Safety will consult with the Maine Commission on Domestic Abuse in carrying out those activities.
2. This amendment revises the factors a court must consider in determining how to award parental rights and responsibilities. The safety and well-being of the child are to be given priority in making decisions about primary residence. The safety and well-being of a parent who is the victim of domestic abuse is part of the consideration of how the child is affected emotionally and how the child's safety is affected.
3. This amendment gives the court discretion to appoint a guardian ad litem in child custody cases in which domestic abuse is involved, rather than mandatory appointment as in the bill. It removes from the bill the requirement that the courts appoint guardians ad litem in all cases of special concern and fund