

# 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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*\*Denotes Chair*



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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 bill requires a responsible parent to pay support directly to the custodial parent when the Department of Human Services has established the amount of the obligation, and the custodial parent has not requested the Department of Human Services to enforce the obligation.

**LD 1219 An Act to Consolidate Health Care Planning, Oversight and Regulation in Maine**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**  
AHEARNE

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**

**SUMMARY**

This bill, modeled on Vermont legislation, is designed to consolidate health care planning, oversight and regulation in Maine with the goal of providing cost containment within 2 1/2 years.

The bill includes the following significant components:

1. It establishes the Maine Health Care Authority, governed by a 3-person board, to serve as an umbrella agency for health care planning including oversight of the Maine Health Care Finance Commission and the Certificate of Need Advisory Committee. The authority's duties include:
  - A. Establishing a unified health care budget in fiscal year 1997-98 that establishes the total amount of money to be spent annually for health care services provided in the State;
  - B. Adopting a statewide health resource management plan;
  - C. Administering the certificate of need program; and
  - D. Developing a common benefit package that, on January 1, 1996, becomes the minimum standard health insurance policy offered in the State;
2. It establishes a Health Insurance Trust Fund to implement the common benefits package;
3. It creates the State Health Coordinating Council, consisting of 31 members and develops the health resource management plan;
4. It requires annual approval of each hospital's budget;
5. It repeals the existing medical malpractice mediation provisions, replacing them with a medical malpractice compensation system administered by the Medical Compensation Board, with appeal and de novo review in Superior Court; and
6. It establishes requirements for the issuance of small group, fewer than 50 employees, and nongroup health benefit plans.
7. It also increases the cigarette tax by 5¢ per pack beginning December 1, 1995. Proceeds from the cigarette tax increase are paid to the Health Insurance Trust Fund.

**LD 1232 Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Evaluate and Reduce Medical Paperwork**

ONTP

**SPONSOR(S)**  
BENEDIKT

**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
ONTP

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**