

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
Sen. Rochelle M. Pingree*

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Rep. Robert J. Winglass*

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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

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

SUMMARY

This resolve establishes the Commission to Evaluate and Reduce Medical Paperwork.

LD 1242 An Act to Further Support the Community Service Volunteer Programs of the National Senior Service Corps of Maine

DIED BETWEEN BODIES

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

SUMMARY

This bill provides funding to the Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs, the Foster Grandparent Programs and the Senior Companion Program which make up the National Senior Service Corps of Maine.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-267) decreases the appropriation to account for funds already in the Governor's budget.

The House engrossed the bill with H-267. The Senate accepted the "ought-not-to-pass" report. The bill died between bodies.

LD 1248 An Act to Establish the Work-Not-Welfare Pilot Program

ONTP

| SPONSOR(S) | COMMITTEE REPORT | AMENDMENTS ADOPTED |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MARTIN | ONTP | |

SUMMARY

This bill, based on 1993 Wisconsin legislation, establishes a pilot program in selected counties that changes the State's system of public assistance. It limits cash benefits under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program to 24 months within a 4-year period, except in certain circumstances and as determined by a case management team. Each recipient of assistance must comply with an employment plan within 30 days of entering the program as a condition of receiving cash benefits. The bill provides waivers to extend medical assistance eligibility and transitional child care for up to 12 months after a family leaves AFDC. Within 2 months of enrollment in the pilot program, those subject to the employment and training program must begin participation in that program. Counties must operate employment and training programs designed to provide participants over the age of 16 with the means to achieve long-term independence from public assistance, including, when appropriate, education.

Persons are subject to the program if one of the following conditions is met:

1. The person resides in a county that has a pilot work-not-welfare program, is receiving, or is the caretaker of a child who is receiving, benefits under the AFDC on January 1, 1997 and has had regularly scheduled reinvestigations after January 1, 1996;
2. The person resides in a pilot county and applies for AFDC for that person or a child dependent on that person on or after January 1, 1997;
3. The person moves to a pilot county on or after January 1, 1997 and at the time of the move the person is receiving, or is the caretaker of a child who is receiving, AFDC benefits; or
4. The person resides in the State in a county other than a pilot county and, within the previous 36 months, had resided in a pilot county and was subject to the work-not-welfare program.