

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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**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 1401 An Act Relating to the Establishment of a Continuum of
Quality and Affordable Long-term Care and Service
Alternatives**

PUBLIC 362
EMERGENCY

SPONSOR(S)
PENDEXTER

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-271

SUMMARY

This bill replaces current law governing congregate housing for the elderly with a law of broader scope. The bill seeks to establish a more flexible, and cost-effective regulatory scheme for long-term care facilities serving senior citizens who do not need the level of care provided by nursing facilities and choose to maintain the maximum level of independence possible.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-271) replaces the entire bill. It adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause. It enables congregate projects for the elderly to be financed by the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority. It requires congregate housing to meet appropriate provisions of the 1994 Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association as verified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal Office. The amendment also contains the particular chapters of the Life Safety Code applicable to different types and sizes of congregate housing facilities.

It creates the Assisted Living Task Force to study state law and regulations concerning the services and facilities designated as congregate housing, assisted living and residential care. It requires the task force to report back to the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources, with necessary legislation, by February 15, 1996.

It also adds a fiscal note.

See also LD 1139.

**LD 1406 An Act to Assist Working Families during Catastrophic
Illness and Economic Hardship through Eligibility for
Medicaid**

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
TUTTLE

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This bill directs the Department of Human Services to review the Medicaid assets test or seek all necessary waivers to exempt a primary residence, retirement accounts and personal motor vehicles from the Medicaid assets test or seek all necessary waivers for any other reduction of means testing criteria in order to assist working families during catastrophic illness and economic hardship.

LD 1413 Resolve, to Create Access to Child Care

ONTP

SPONSOR(S)
SAXL M

COMMITTEE REPORT
ONTP

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

SUMMARY

This resolve establishes a 3-year pilot project consisting of day-care center cooperatives for which day care would be provided at a low cost or free of charge to individuals in exchange for volunteering a certain number of hours per week at the center.

See also LD 1496, Section A-38.

LD 1427 An Act to Promote Family Self-sufficiency by Changing the Welfare Rules Governing the Disregard Period ONTP

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
BRENNAN ONTP

SUMMARY

This bill directs the Department of Human Services to apply for a waiver from the Federal Government to phase in the loss of Aid to Families with Dependent Children benefits by a working person over a 2-year period. Also during that 2-year period, the person would continue to receive child care benefits, Medicaid and job training benefits. The bill also appropriates \$500,000 for matching funds for federal job training funds for welfare recipients.

LD 1493 An Act to Modernize Vital Statistics Reporting PUBLIC 260

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
PENDEXTER OTP-AM S-192

SUMMARY

This bill makes vital statistics registration processes more responsive to public needs by allowing the department to adjust time limits and define the registration process more flexibly through the process of regulation. The bill also clarifies the dates at which certain vital statistics records become public records that are available on request. The bill is based on recommendations from the National Center of Health Statistics and pending with the Council of State Governments.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-192) clarifies language in the original bill. This amendment adds a fiscal note to the bill.

LD 1496 An Act to Improve the AFDC Program PUBLIC 418

SPONSOR(S) **COMMITTEE REPORT** **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED**
MILLS OTP-AM MAJ H-650 LOVETT
 OTP-AM MIN S-322
 S-348 MILLS
 S-385 HANLEY

SUMMARY

Part A makes the following changes to the laws governing Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

- 1. It changes the name of the Bureau of Income Maintenance to the Bureau of Family Independence and changes the name of the ASPIRE program from Additional Support for People in Retraining and Education to Additional Support for People in Retraining and Employment.