

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

licensure standards must be established by rule of the board. Funding for the board is expected to come from fees generated through license applications, renewals and reinstatements. The fees must be deposited in a nonlapsing account dedicated to the board. The board is also commissioned to study the necessity of licensing testers of backflow prevention devices.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-489) removes the requirement that the public member of the Board of Licensure of Water Treatment Plant Operators who is a registered professional engineer be employed by a water utility. It removes repeal of the maximum fee levels for examination and license renewal.

LD 1558

An Act to Deregulate the Costs and Revenues Associated with Acute Care Provided to Involuntarily Committed Patients within the Hospital Care Finance System

PUBLIC 497

SPONSOR(S)
WINGLASS

COMMITTEE REPORT
OTP-AM

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
H-555

SUMMARY

As part of a consent decree to settle claims made against the State in connection to its operation of the Augusta Mental Health Institute, the State has agreed to establish community-based treatment options for patients who are involuntarily committed for mental health treatment. To meet that obligation, the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation intends to contract with hospitals to admit such patients, affecting over time approximately 48 hospital beds in southern Maine and approximately 14 beds in the Bangor area. To encourage hospitals to participate in such contracts, this bill excludes from regulation by the hospital care finance system the costs associated with providing care to involuntarily committed patients, as well as the revenues received to pay for that care. The most significant impact of that exclusion would be that the hospitals' Medicaid tax assessments, based on gross revenue limits, would not be increased as a result of those additional revenues collected for providing care to involuntarily committed patients.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-555) amends the provision on consideration of hospital financial requirements. During any time that payments to hospitals are made under the federal disproportionate share to hospitals formula, it requires the Maine Health Care Finance Commission to exclude the cost of services provided to involuntarily committed patients.

LD 1585

An Act Regarding Narcotic Dependency

PUBLIC 499

SPONSOR(S)
STEVENS A

COMMITTEE REPORT

AMENDMENTS ADOPTED
S-365

SUMMARY

The bill amends the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 17-A, section 1102, subsection 1, paragraph I to include methadone hydrochloride and levo-alpha-acetyl-methadol within the designation of schedule W drugs.

Incorporating existing federal law, the bill clarifies the law by explicitly requiring that possession, use or prescription of any drug or substance can be lawful only if issued for a legitimate medical or veterinary purpose by a licensed or authorized person acting in the usual course of that person's professional practice and, thus, incorporates existing federal law.

It expands lawful possession of certain drugs to include "controlled substances" and "scheduled drugs" and defines those words.