

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE**

**1ST SPECIAL SESSION**

**(NOVEMBER 28TH TO DECEMBER 1, 1995)**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES**

**JUNE 1996**



**Maine State Legislature**  
**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Maine 04333-0013  
Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

*Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees*  
*June 1996*

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the 15 Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature staffed by this office. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill, committee amendments and other relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken on the bill. Also included are statistical summaries of bill activity this Session for the Legislature and each of its joint standing committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the joint standing committees. It is organized alphabetically by committees and within committees by bill (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor for each bill and the lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each bill title. All adopted amendments are listed by paper number. Two indices, a subject index and a numerical index by LD number are provided for easy reference to bills. They are located at the back of the document. A separate publication, History and Final Disposition of Legislative Documents, may also be helpful in providing information on the disposition of bills.

Final action on each bill is noted to the right of the bill title. The abbreviations used for various categories of final action are as follows:

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

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is March 1, 1996.

**LD 1590****An Act to Correct an Error in the Hospital Assessment Program**PUBLIC 503  
EMERGENCYSponsor(s)  
KERRCommittee Report  
OTP-AMAmendments Adopted  
H-679

LD 1590 was referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. The bill proposed to correct an inadvertent error in Public Law 1995, chapter 368, which prohibited the Department of Human Services from adopting rules implementing changes in the hospital assessment program. It would have allowed the department to establish new rules. In recognition of the transfer of responsibilities from the Maine Health Care Finance Commission to the Department of Human Services, references to the former are replaced by references to the latter. Because it is no longer necessary, the bill also repealed a provision in Public Law 1995, chapter 368, which required the department to uniformly reduce assessments by January 1, 1996 in the event a waiver from the Federal Government was not obtained.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-679)** proposed to make the bill an emergency measure. The amendment removed the provisions that do not directly pertain to collecting the hospital assessment at existing budgeted levels. It also repealed the provision that restricted rulemaking concerning the establishment of gross patient service revenue limits.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1995, chapter 503 corrects an inadvertent error in Public Law 1995, chapter 368, which prohibited the Department of Human Services from adopting rules implementing changes in the hospital assessment program. It allows the department to establish new rules. In recognition of the transfer of responsibilities from the Maine Health Care Finance Commission to the Department of Human Services, references to the former are replaced by references to the latter. Because it is no longer necessary, Chapter 503 repeals a provision in Public Law 1995, chapter 368, which required the department to uniformly reduce assessments by January 1, 1996 in the event a waiver from the Federal Government was not obtained.

Chapter 503 was enacted as an emergency measure effective December 1, 1995.

**LD 1591****An Act to Implement the Productivity Plan of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources Relating to Harness Racing**

CARRIED OVER

Sponsor(s)  
KERRCommittee Report  
ONTPAmendments Adopted

LD 1591 was referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans' Affairs and carried over to the Second Regular Session. See discussion of this bill in the Second Regular Session bill summaries for that committee.