

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
117TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HUMAN RESOURCES¹**

JUNE 1996

MEMBERS:

Sen. Joan M. Pendexter, Chair

Sen. John W. Benoit

Sen. Rochelle M. Pingree

Rep. Michael J. Fitzpatrick, Chair

Rep. Birger T. Johnson

Rep. David Etnier

Rep. J. Elizabeth Mitchell

Rep. Kyle W. Jones

Rep. Glenys P. Lovett

Rep. Jeffery G. Joyner

Rep. Jean Ginn Marvin

Rep. Robert J. Winglass

Rep. Henry L. Joy

Staff:

Jane Orbeton, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station*

Augusta, ME 04333

(207)287-1670

¹ Amendments to Joint Rule 13 adopted this session changed the committee name to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.



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

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

**ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR 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:

<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 finally passed 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>

Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is July 4, 1996.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 697 comprises the provisions of the bill, Committee Amendment “A” and Senate Amendment “A”. The law is intended to ensure that persons in need of mental health services continue to have access to those services by requiring that any money identified as savings due to the closure of a state mental health facility or a diminution of services at any such facility and any money from administrative savings at the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services be used to provide the services in other appropriate settings and programs. The law defines these savings as net General Fund savings generated through legislative or departmental actions less any cost or liability from implementing those actions.

Public Law 1995, chapter 697 takes effect April 11, 1996.

LD 1772

An Act to Create a Uniform Health Information System

ONTP

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1772 is one of the bills reported to the Legislature by the Health Care Reform Commission. It contains some provisions that are also contained in LD 1788. See also LD 1788. The bill proposed to do the following:

1. Part A would have established the Maine Health Data Organization, an independent state agency to oversee and coordinate health collection activities and collect, edit and store statewide health data resources. Part A would have granted the Maine Health Data Organization authority to collect health data from all health care facilities and practitioners providing health services, including pharmacists and health product vendors. The Maine Health Data Organization would be required to collect utilization data, coordinate population surveys with the needs of both public and private sectors and oversee the collection of workforce data through surveys conducted by licensing boards. Part A also proposed to assess carriers and insurance administrators as a mechanism for funding the Maine Health Data Organization.
2. Part B would have required the Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation to cooperate with the Maine Health Data Organization's data collection activities and to require the cooperation of the health care practitioner licensing boards within and affiliated with the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. Part B also would have required the Commissioner of Human Services to cooperate with the Maine Health Data Organization's data collection activities.
3. Part C would have allowed the board members for the Maine Health Data Organization to be reimbursed for their expenses.
4. Part D would have amended the licensing statutes for all health care practitioners to provide that repeated and intentional failure to comply with the data collection requirements is grounds for terminating a health care practitioner's license.

See LD 1788, a related bill, which was enacted as Public Law 1995, chapter 653 and which establishes the Maine Health Data Organization as of December 31, 1996 or at such earlier date as the entity becomes operational.