

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
117TH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
HUMAN RESOURCES<sup>1</sup>**

**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*

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<sup>1</sup> 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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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.

6. It enacts provisions requiring the Department of Human Services to draft a comprehensive health plan and to convene an annual health workforce forum.

7. It provides appropriations and allocations necessary to support the Maine Health Care Finance Commission until December 31, 1996, at the latest, and the Maine Health Data Organization from its beginning until June 30, 1997.

Enacted as an emergency, Public Law 1995, chapter 653 contains a number of effective dates (the earliest of which is April 10, 1996), depending on the specific provisions involved. See also LD 1722 and 1673.

**LD 1795**

**An Act to Clarify the Laws Pertaining to the Regulation of  
Narcotic Dependency Treatment Programs**

PUBLIC 621

Sponsor(s)  
AULT

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-841

LD 1795 proposed to clarify the laws regulating narcotic dependency treatment programs. The bill would have made minor technical changes to provisions dealing with the distribution of and accounting for controlled substances. The bill would have clarified that the Director of the Office of Substance Abuse may not authorize employment of persons who have been convicted of felonies and drug offenses within treatment programs unless the potential employee had obtained the necessary federal waivers. The bill would have repealed a section of law that restricts physicians from using certain drugs for legitimate medical purposes and an unnecessary provision from the pharmacy laws.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-841)** is the Majority Report. It proposed to amend section 2 of the bill and add a fiscal note. It would have added conditions to the authorization of the Director of the Office of Substance Abuse to grant an exception to the prohibition on treatment programs employing persons who have been convicted of felonies and drug offenses.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1995, chapter 621 comprises the provisions of the bill and the Committee Amendment. It clarifies language on the distribution and accounting for scheduled drugs. It adds conditions to the authorization of the Director of the Office of Substance Abuse to grant an exception to the prohibition on treatment programs employing persons who have been convicted of felonies and drug offenses. It repeals provisions of law restricting the possession, receipt and dispensing of scheduled or prescription drugs and controlled substances that are duplicative of restrictions contained elsewhere in Maine law. It repeals provisions contained in the Pharmacy Act regarding the investigation of complaints that are duplicative of provisions contained elsewhere in Maine law.

**LD 1806**

**An Act to Promote Choice and Quality in Long-term Care**

PUBLIC 696  
EMERGENCY

Sponsor(s)  
PENDEXTER  
TOWNSEND

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
S-563