

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

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



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**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.

Sponsor(S)Committee ReportAmendments Adopted

(Bill was drafted in committee and reported directly to the floor of the House.)

LD 1875 is the result of the work of the Human Resources Committee in response to Private and Special Law 1995, chapter 51, which directed the committee to hold a hearing and report legislation by March 1, 1996. This bill proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to take steps to continue the use of the food stamp standard utility allowance for households receiving assistance under the food stamp program and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. It would have directed the department to coordinate efforts with public entities and entities operating publicly subsidized assistance programs to examine options for continuing benefits and to apply for federal waivers to do so. It would have directed the department to report promptly to the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources if it were to find itself unable to preserve the use of the food stamp standard utility allowance.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1995, chapter 629, enacts the original bill. The bill was developed in committee and was therefore not heard after printing. The law directs the Department of Human Services to take steps to continue the use of the food stamp standard utility allowance for households receiving assistance under the food stamp program and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. It directs the department to coordinate efforts with public entities and entities operating publicly subsidized assistance programs to examine options for continuing benefits and to apply for federal waivers to do so. It directs the department to report promptly to the Joint Standing Committee on Human Resources if it finds that it is unable to preserve the use of the food stamp standard utility allowance.

Public Law 1995, chapter 629 takes effect April 8, 1996.