

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

**BILL SUMMARIES  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**JULY 1997**

***MEMBERS:***

***Sen. Judy Paradis, Chair***

***Sen. Susan W. Longley***

***Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell***

***Rep. J. Elizabeth Mitchell, Chair***

***Rep. Joseph E. Brooks***

***Rep. Elaine Fuller***

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***Rep. Lois A. Snowe-Mello***

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**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR AND FIRST SPECIAL SESSIONS**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees**  
**August 1997**

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. These bill summaries also are available at the Law and Legislative Reference Library and on the Internet ([www.state.me.us/legis/opla](http://www.state.me.us/legis/opla)).

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 Regular 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 IN CONCURRENCE</i> .....	<i>One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill</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/FINAL PASSAGE</i> .....	<i>Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote</i>
<i>FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE</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>OTP ND</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft</i>
<i>OTP ND/NT</i> .....	<i>Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title</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>Bill held by Governor</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 First Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 26, 1997 and September 19, 1997 for the First Special Session.

*David E. Boulter, Director*  
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARVIN PENDLETON P	OTP-AM	H-17

LD 302 proposed to require the Commissioners of Economic and Community Development and Human Services to study the creation of jobs for welfare recipients and to report to the Health and Human Services Committee by November 1, 1997. The report would have included an action plan to create jobs for welfare recipients and any legislation required to implement the plan.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-17)** proposed to require the Commissioner of Labor to participate in the study of job creation for welfare recipients and the Commissioner of Human Services to chair the study. It would change the report date to February 1, 1998. It would require the report to address the role of private industry and private sector employers in job creation for welfare recipients. It would add a fiscal note.

*Enacted law summary*

Private and Special Law 1997, chapter 6 comprises the provisions of the bill and the Committee Amendment. It requires a report on job creation for welfare recipients from the Commissioners of Economic and Community Development, Human Services and Labor by February 1, 1998. It requires the report to address the role of private industry and private sector employers.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MARVIN MITCHELL B	ONTP	

LD 303 proposed to require the Commissioner of Human Services to adopt rules regarding medication retention in nursing facilities to ensure that medications are retained that belong to residents who are on leave from the facility and who are likely to return and that credit is given to the accounts of residents for medications returned to the pharmacy.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POVICH MILLS	ONTP	

LD 333 proposed to appropriate \$500,000 in each year of the biennium for child care services to qualifying parents needing child care in order to work during the afternoon, evening or on weekends.

See funding for child care in LD 1896, Public Law 1997, Chapter 530.

**LD 334**                      **Resolve, to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study Poverty Among Working Parents with Regard to an Annual Report Card on Poverty**                      **RESOLVE 36**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
POVICH MILLS	OTP	

LD 334 proposed to require the State Planning Office to report annually to the Legislature on the subject of poverty in the State.

*Enacted law summary*

Resolve 1997, chapter 36 comprises the provisions of the bill. It requires the State Planning Office to submit to the Legislature an annual report on poverty beginning January 1, 1998.

**LD 374**                      **An Act to Consider Cost-effectiveness When Providing Medicaid Coverage for Dental Services**                      **PUBLIC 159**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BENOIT	OTP	

LD 374 proposed to require that Medicaid coverage be provided for dental services when medically necessary and when the coverage of these services is cost-effective.

*Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1997, chapter 159 comprises the provisions of the bill. It requires Medicaid to cover some dental services for adults when those services are medically necessary and cost-effective.

**LD 388**                      **An Act to Ensure State Payment to Nursing Homes of Costs Associated with State Adult Protection Custody Orders**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GOLDTHWAIT	ONTP	