

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:

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Sen. Susan W. Longley
Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell

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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).

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 & 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&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>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

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	

LD 388 proposed to require the Department of Human Services, as guardian, to pay certain nursing facility bills received after a state ward's resources are depleted and before the time the individual is eligible for Medicaid or any other 3rd-party payment source.

LD 391 **An Act to Allow Volunteer Work in a State Licensed Day-care Facility to Fulfill Requirements of the ASPIRE-JOB Program and to Establish a Statewide Toll-free Telephone Line for Reporting Welfare Fraud** **ONTP**

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

LD 391 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to establish a pilot program under which an individual may satisfy the 20-hour per week requirement of the ASPIRE-JOBS Program by volunteering in a state licensed day-care facility.

The bill would have required the Commissioner of Human Services to establish a toll-free telephone line for use by the public in reporting suspected fraud in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program.

LD 394 **An Act to Preserve Senior Volunteerism** **INDEF PP**

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

LD 394 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to fund community-based senior volunteer programs that received funding from the Bureau of Elder and Adult Services during fiscal year 1995-96 in an amount at least equal to each agency's fiscal year 1995-96 allocation.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-61) proposed to delete the statutory language guaranteeing a funding methodology for senior volunteer programs for fiscal year 1997-98 and subsequent years and provided an appropriation for fiscal years 1997-98 and 1998-99 for \$5,700 each year for senior volunteer programs. It would have added a fiscal note to the bill.

See Public Law 1997, chapter 24, which provides funding as proposed in the bill.