

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

Rep. Thomas J. Kane

Rep. Wendy Pieh

Rep. Michael W. Quint

Rep. Glenys P. Lovett

Rep. Jeffery G. Joyner

Rep. Tarren R. Bragdon

Rep. Lois A. Snowe-Mello

Staff:

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Maine State Legislature

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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:

- CARRIED OVER*.....*Bill carried over to Second Regular Session*
- CON RES XXX*.....*Chapter # of Constitutional Resolution passed by both Houses*
- CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE*.....*Committee of Conference unable to agree; bill died*
- DIED BETWEEN BODIES*.....*House & Senate disagree; bill died*
- DIED IN CONCURRENCE*.....*One body accepts ONTP report; the other indefinitely postpones the bill*
- DIED ON ADJOURNMENT*.....*Action incomplete when session ended; bill died*
- EMERGENCY*.....*Enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days*
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....*Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote*
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE*.....*Bill failed to get majority vote*
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT*.....*Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote*
- INDEF PP*.....*Bill Indefinitely Postponed*
- ONTP*.....*Ought Not To Pass report accepted*
- OTP ND*.....*Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft*
- OTP ND/NT*.....*Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft/New Title*
- P&S XXX*.....*Chapter # of enacted Private & Special Law*
- PUBLIC XXX*.....*Chapter # of enacted Public Law*
- RESOLVE XXX*.....*Chapter # of finally passed Resolve*
- UNSIGNED*.....*Bill held by Governor*
- VETO SUSTAINED*.....*Legislature failed to override Governor's Veto*

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 689 **An Act to Exempt Veteran Residents of the Maine Veterans' Homes from the Provisions on Medical Assessment of Eligibility for Medicaid Reimbursement** **ONTP**

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> PLOWMAN | | <u>Committee Report</u> ONTP | | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|

LD 689 proposed to exempt veteran residents of the Maine Veterans' Homes from the provisions on medical eligibility for reimbursement under the Medicaid program.

LD 696 **An Act to Assist 2-parent Families in which At Least One Parent Is Incapacitated** **ONTP**

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> TOWNSEND | | <u>Committee Report</u> ONTP | | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|

LD 696 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to provide direct aid to 2-parent families in which at least one parent is incapacitated.

See LD 1896, Public Law 1997, chapter 530, section A-16 as it enacts 22 MRSA §3762, subsection 3, paragraph B, subparagraph 3.

LD 733 **An Act to Require Medicaid to Pay for Intravenous Drug Therapy at Home** **ONTP**

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|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> VIGUE DAGGETT | | <u>Committee Report</u> ONTP | | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|

LD 733 proposed to authorize state Medicaid to pay for intravenous drug therapy services at home.

LD 771 **An Act to Require That the Department of Human Services Bring Criminal Charges Promptly against a Custodian When a Child is Removed under Court Order** **ONTP**

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> JOY | | <u>Committee Report</u> ONTP | | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|

LD 771 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to file criminal charges within 15 days of issuance of a removal order against a custodian from whose custody a child has been removed. If the department fails to meet this deadline, the custodian would have been allowed to petition the court to have the removal order vacated

and the court would have been required to vacate the order if it had found that the department did not file charges within 15 days of issuance of the removal order. The court would have been required to issue a new order to return the child to the custodian's custody.

LD 787 **Resolve, to Establish the Task Force on Youth and Families** **INDEF PP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| BRENNAN DAGGETT | OTP-AM | |

LD 787 proposed to establish a procedure for identifying children in need of supervision and addressing their needs.

It would have created the Maine Commission for Youth and Families and given authority to the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to implement a range of services for children in need of supervision. It would have required further study to be conducted by the Maine Commission for Youth and Families and directed the commission to evaluate the efficacy of the current youth and family service system in Maine. It would have provided for secure facilities for children in need of supervision who do not comply with valid court orders and required the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to develop a capacity to provide facilities within the State for children who require long-term care for mental illness and who have additional conditions that make the use of secure facilities appropriate in providing necessary treatment and care.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-173) proposed to establish the Task Force on Youth and Families to study the needs of youths who are at risk and their families. The task force would have been required to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 1, 1997.

LD 790 **An Act to Provide Health Insurance Coverage to Children in Maine** **ONTP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| WINN | ONTP | |

LD 790 proposed to extend Medicaid coverage to children under 19 years of age whose family income is below 150% of the nonfarm income poverty line, with a system of copayments and a sliding scale for services if the percentage is between 150% and 100%. It would have provided that all Medicaid to children is through managed care. This Medicaid expansion would have been funded through a .5 mill increase in the cigarette tax.

See LD 1886 and 1887, committee bills on cigarette tax and anti-smoking and children's health care. See also LD 1898, Governor King's bill on cigarette tax and anti-smoking. See also LD 1904, Public Law 1997, chapter 560.