

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

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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).

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

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MARVIN MITCHELL B	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 844 proposed to reduce from 12 months to 6 months the time period for a child in foster care to qualify for long-term foster care absent a termination of parental rights.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 39 comprises the provisions of the bill. It reduces from 12 to 6 months the time period for a foster child to qualify for long-term foster care absent a termination of parental rights.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> PIEH PINGREE	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-455 S-377 MICHAUD
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LD 851 proposed to provide General Fund reimbursement for personal care services provided for Medicaid recipients on an interim basis. It would have directed the Department of Human Services to apply for a Medicaid waiver by April 15, 1997 to allow recipients of personal care services reimbursed by the Medicaid program to employ their spouses in that capacity and report on the status of the waiver application to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by June 1, 1997.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-455) proposed to replace the bill. It would require the Department of Human Services to reimburse spouses who act as personal care providers for severely physically disabled adults who are eligible to receive services authorized under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 26, section 1421. It also proposed to add an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-377) proposed to deappropriate the funds appropriated in Committee Amendment "A".

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 509 comprises the provisions of Committee Amendment "A" and Senate Amendment "A". It requires the Department of Human Services to reimburse spouses serving as personnel care attendants for severely physically disabled persons. The law takes effect June 12, 1997.