

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

Rep. J. Elizabeth Mitchell, Chair

Rep. Joseph E. Brooks

Rep. Elaine Fuller

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Staff:

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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 888

An Act to Provide for Notification to Local Officials upon the Release of Potentially Violent Patients from State Mental Health Institutions

ONTP

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

LD 888 proposed to require notification to the State Police and county and local law enforcement authorities when a patient is released from a state mental health institution if that patient was hospitalized because the patient presented a danger to others.

LD 912

An Act to Ensure Access to Child Support for Low-income Children

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| MITCHELL J MICHAUD | ONTP | |

LD 912 continues the child support pass-through applicable in AFDC cases beyond its April 1, 1997 expiration date.

See LD 1896, Public Law 1997, chapter 530, Part A-16 as it enacts 22 MRSA Section 3762, subsection 3, paragraph B, subparagraph 1. See also Public 1997, chapter 24, which continued funding for the pass-thru during the biennium.

LD 913

An Act to Provide Additional Operating Funds for Homeless Shelters

PUBLIC 552

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| MITCHELL E PENDLETON P | OTP-AM MAJ OTP-AM MIN | H-409 S-372 MICHAUD |

LD 913 proposed to appropriate \$2,000,000 in each year of this biennium, for homeless and domestic violence shelters.

The bill would have required mental health workers in homeless shelters to consult with the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services within 5 days of a person's admission to a shelter to identify an appropriate residential and mental health placement for the person in need of mental health services and to make the placement within a reasonable period of time.

The bill would have required the department to develop licensing standards for homeless shelters in consultation with the Maine Coalition for the Homeless and the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by October 1, 1997.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-409) is the majority report of the committee. It proposed to provide \$1,000,000 per year for homeless shelters. This amendment proposed to reduce the membership of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities and to direct it to report to the Governor and Legislature on how best to provide affordable housing and homeless shelter services to persons with mental illness and to make recommendations on the future role and responsibilities of the task force. It also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-372) proposed to eliminate the appropriation section and add a fiscal note.

Committee Amendment "B" (H-410) is the minority report of the committee. It proposed to reduce the membership of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities and to direct it to report to the Governor and Legislature on how best to provide affordable housing and homeless shelter services to persons with mental illness and to make recommendations on the future role and responsibilities of the task force. It also would have added a fiscal note.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter PL 552 comprises the provisions of Committee Amendment "A" and Senate Amendment "A". It reduces the membership on the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities and requires a report to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 1997, on affordable housing and homeless shelter services for persons with mental illness and substance abuse problems and on the future role and responsibilities of the task force.

LD 917 **Resolve, to Establish a Coordinated Information Referral System and a Single Intake System for the Department of Corrections, the Department of Education, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services and the Department of Public Safety** **INDEF PP**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| JOYNER MITCHELL B | OTP-AM | |

In Part A LD 917 proposed to establish the Department of Health and Family Services to assume fully the duties of the current Department of Human Services and Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

In Part B this bill proposed to transfer from the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to the Department of Health and Family Services all of the expenditures, assets, liabilities, appropriations and allocations, rules, contracts and agreements, records, property and employees of those 2 departments. It would have directed the Revisor of Statutes to make any statutory corrections necessary for consistency of the statutes.

In Part C this bill proposed to direct transitional activities concerning the budget and the functions of the departments involved. It would have directed the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services to submit legislation needed to correct errors and inconsistencies.