

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
118TH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
AND  
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**

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

**MAY 1998**

**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**  
**SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS**

***Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees***  
***May 1998***

We are pleased to provide this summary of bills that were considered by the Joint Standing Committees of the Maine Legislature. The document is a compilation of bill summaries which describe each bill and relevant amendments, as well as the final action taken. 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 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:

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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is June 30, 1998 and July 9, 1998 for the Second Special Session. Second Special Session laws include Public Laws beginning with Chapter 718, Private and Special Laws beginning with Chapter 82 and Resolves beginning with Chapter 117.

## Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

**LD 153**

**An Act to Provide Social Services to Children in Need of Services and State Supervision**

**ONTP**

Sponsor(s)  
BUNKER  
PARADIS

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 153 proposed to establish 2 systems for providing services to children who are runaways, homeless or truant or whose conduct is violent or aggressive or places them at risk or in danger of serious harm or serious injury. The children who were proposed to receive services from the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services are designated as children in need of services. Services to this group of children would be based on cooperation between the child and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services. The children who were proposed to receive services from the Department of Human Services, because their conduct creates a threat of serious harm or serious injury, are designated as children in need of state supervision. Services to this group of children would be based on a voluntary agreement between the Department of Human Services and the custodial parent or custodian of the child.

See the committee bill on children's mental health, LD 2295.

**LD 1113**

**An Act to Require the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to Report the Facts of an Unnatural Death of a Patient under the Care of the Department to the Legislature**

**PUBLIC 605**

Sponsor(s)  
BENOIT

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
S-485

LD 1113 proposed to require the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to disclose information concerning the death from unnatural causes of a patient admitted to a state mental health institute. The disclosure would have been made to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services in executive session within 5 days of the death. No one receiving the information would have been allowed to discuss or disclose it outside of executive session.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-485)** proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to require the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to report to the chairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services information on a death reportable by the commissioner to the Chief Medical Examiner. The amendment proposed to require that information and reports must maintain the confidentiality of the identity of all persons mentioned or referred to in the information and reports.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 605 comprises the provisions of Committee Amendment “A”. It requires the Commissioner of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to report to the chairs of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services information on a death reportable by the commissioner to the Chief Medical Examiner. Information and reports provided pursuant to this provision must maintain the confidentiality of the identity of all persons mentioned or referred to in the information and reports.

<b>LD 1199</b>	<b>An Act to Ensure Adequate Nutrition and Support for Low-income Legal Immigrants</b>	<b>PUBLIC 731</b>
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL J PARADIS	OTP-AM	H-833 S-760 MICHAUD

LD 1199 proposed to provide state assistance to aged, blind and disabled legal immigrants who would no longer be eligible for assistance from the federal Supplemental Security Income Program and food assistance to low-income households no longer eligible for the federal Food Stamp Program. It proposed to require the Department of Human Services to help legal immigrants seeking to become naturalized citizens to achieve that status.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-833)** proposed to delete the emergency preamble and the emergency clause. It also proposed to delete the notice provisions in the food assistance and supplemental security income sections and add an appropriation section and fiscal note.

**Senate Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-760)** proposed to eliminate the provision concerning supplemental security income for legal immigrants. It proposed to provide one-time funding for a food benefit for legal aliens through June, 1999 from savings available in the State Supplement to the Federal Supplemental Security Income program.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1997, chapter 731 comprises the provisions of Committee Amendment “A” and Senate Amendment “B” to Committee Amendment “A”. It provides funding for a food benefit for fiscal year 1998-99 for legal aliens who lost eligibility because of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996.

<b>LD 1302</b>	<b>An Act to Amend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program</b>	<b>PUBLIC 695</b>
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
RAND SAXL M	OTP-AM	S-588

LD 1302 proposed to authorize the Department of Human Services to continue Maine's Aid to Families with Dependent Children program, using money from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant funds. It proposed to establish no time limit on receipt of aid to families with dependent children and that victims of domestic violence who would have difficulty participating in ASPIRE-JOBS are exempt from such participation.