

# 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***

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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](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:

<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 &amp; 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&amp;S XXX</i> .....	<i>Chapter # of enacted Private &amp; 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 1117

**An Act to Assist Low-income Parents to Obtain Access to Education**

ONTP

Sponsor(s)  
PINGREE  
KONTOS

Committee Report  
ONTP

Amendments Adopted

LD 1117 proposed to establish the Parents as Scholars Program to offer an alternative to the aid to families with dependent children program for low-income parents who want to participate in an education or training program for 2 to 4 years. The bill would establish the Parents as Scholars Joint Planning Committee to aid in implementing the Parents as Scholars Program.

See LD 1896, Public Law 1997, chapter 530, sections B-1 and B-2, as they enact 22 MRSA chapter 1054-B.

**LD 1133**

**Resolve, to Ensure Quality Care to Residents of Nursing Facilities through the Establishment of a Task Force on Minimum Staffing**

**RESOLVE 34  
EMERGENCY**

Sponsor(s)  
ETNIER  
PINGREE

Committee Report  
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted  
H-304

LD 1133 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to convene a task force to study current departmental rules concerning minimum staffing levels required of nursing facilities with the purpose of recommending to the department how those rules might be amended to better meet the needs of residents of nursing facilities. The task force would consist of representatives of the Department of Human Services, residents of nursing facilities or families of residents, agencies who serve residents and their families and providers of nursing facility services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-304)** proposed to allow the Commissioner of Human Services to add persons other than those representatives named in the resolve to the task force on minimum staffing established in the resolve. It would add a fiscal note to the resolve.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1997, chapter 34 comprises the provisions of the bill and the Committee Amendment. It directs the Department of Human Services to convene a task force on staffing levels in nursing facilities. It directs the task force to report to the Health and Human Services Committee within 90 days of the effective date. The resolve takes effect May 22, 1997.