

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

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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 1792

An Act to Decrease Young Adult and Adolescent Pregnancies

ONTP

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

LD 1792 proposed to create the Young Adult and Adolescent Pregnancy Task Force to assist in decreasing the number of young adult and adolescent pregnancies. The task force would have been required to develop and implement a series of measures, including a public relations program and a mentoring program, and to study measures used in California and Tennessee to achieve specified pregnancy reduction goals as recommended by the Healthy Maine 2000 Project of the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health.

LD 1814

An Act to Improve the Delivery of Mental Health Services in Maine

PUBLIC 423

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LONGLEY FULLER	OTP-AM	S-312

LD 1814 proposed to give the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services oversight authority over all providers of mental health services that receive General Fund and Medicaid money and to authorize the department to establish rules to govern local service networks. The bill proposed to define the State's role in providing a safety net of services for people with mental illness.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-312) proposed to clarify the application of professional standards to nonmembers of the local service networks. It would specify the responsibility of the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to provide a safety net of services for adult mental health consumers. It would require the department to collect data on mental health service utilization and unmet needs.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 423 comprises the provisions of the Committee Amendment. It clarifies that the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services oversees the local service networks regarding the delivery of mental health services. It requires the department to collect data on mental health needs and services. It defines the department's responsibility to provide a safety net of mental health services for adults.

LD 1817

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority

**PUBLIC 385
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL J CAREY	OTP-AM	H-473

LD 1817 proposed to allow the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority to act as a conduit for eligible borrowers to purchase commodities in bulk and to allow it to purchase electricity on behalf of eligible borrowers if utility deregulation laws are enacted. The bill would create a lease financing program in the MHHEFA identical to the one created by the Legislature for use by local governments through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-473) proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 385 comprises the provisions of the bill and the Committee Amendment. It allows the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority to act as a conduit for the purchase of commodities and utility services. It creates a lease financing program within MHHEFA. The law takes effect May 31, 1997.

LD 1859

An Act to Prevent Hunger Among Unemployed Maine Workers

**P & S 38
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COLWELL TREAT	OTP-AM	H-584

The new federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 limits food stamp program eligibility for certain unemployed individuals to 3 months in a 3-year period. The act authorizes the United States Department of Agriculture to grant waivers of this provision to states for areas that do not have a sufficient number of jobs for individuals subject to this provision. Maine has already received a waiver for 8 counties and the Penobscot Nation. LD 1859 proposed to require the department to seek a waiver of 3 additional areas on the basis of insufficient jobs: Kennebec County, Penobscot County and the Sanford labor market area. It would instruct the department to seek a waiver for certain categories of individuals who, because of particular hardships, are unlikely to find jobs.

Additionally, this bill would require the Department of Human Services to coordinate with other public and nonprofit agencies to develop and supervise volunteer placements for persons who would otherwise become ineligible for food stamps and would require the department to arrange for an independent evaluation of the social and economic impact of this new provision on individuals losing assistance, municipalities and the Maine economy.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-584) proposed to add a requirement that nonprofit agencies assisting in the creation, administration and supervision of volunteer community placements for current or former food stamp recipients also provide volunteer placement services and that they be paid on a contract basis based on the volunteer placements completed. The amendment would replace the provision requiring the Department of Human Services to identify and locate persons who lose food stamp eligibility and to evaluate the impact of those lost benefits with a requirement that the department, to the extent feasible, identify and locate those persons. It would authorize the department to set up a dedicated account for receiving public and private funds to be used for evaluation purposes and add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary