

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:

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Sen. Susan W. Longley
Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell

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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).

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.

of Human Services. It requires a report from the Commissioner of Human Services, in conjunction with the Long-term Care Steering Committee, on reimbursement rates for personal care assistance services and the future role and duties of the committee. It requires a report from the commissioners of the 2 departments on the transfer and transition. It increases the membership on the Long-term Care Steering Committee by 2 members. It changes the membership of the multidisciplinary team in home and community support services for adults from one social services professional and one health care professional to one social services professional or one health care professional. It appropriates funds in the amount transferred from the Department of Labor. The law takes effect July 1, 1998.

LD 2071 An Act Regarding Contract Procedures PUBLIC 588

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PARADIS	OTP	

LD 2071 proposed to repeal a paragraph on social service contracting by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Office of Substance Abuse that conflicts with provisions of Public Law 1997, chapter 381.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 588 comprises the provisions of the bill. It repeals a paragraph on social service contracting by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Office of Substance Abuse that conflicts with provisions of Public Law 1997, chapter 381.

LD 2078 An Act to Allow Recognition of Private Schools with Outstanding Residential Counseling Programs ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SNOWE-MELLO MITCHELL B	ONTP	

LD 2078 proposed to authorize the Department of Human Services to issue a certificate recognizing private schools that provide outstanding residential counseling programs for troubled adolescents.

LD 2102 An Act to Update the Guide Dog Access Law PUBLIC 611

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DAGGETT TESSIER	OTP-AM	S-487

LD 2102 proposed to provide guide dog trainers, while engaged in training a guide dog, all rights of access and use as are provided to a blind, visually handicapped or otherwise physically disabled person who uses a guide dog.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-487) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to retain the provisions of the original bill that update the guide dog law. The amendment proposed to add to the law personal care dogs for persons who are physically disabled.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 611 comprises the provisions of the bill and Committee Amendment "A". It provides guide dog trainers, while engaged in training a guide dog, all rights of access and use as are provided to a blind, visually handicapped or otherwise physically disabled person who uses a guide dog. It updates the guide dog law and adds to the law personal care dogs for persons who are physically disabled.

LD 2103

An Act to Improve the Efficiency of the Maine Public Drinking Water Control Program

**PUBLIC 666
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LAWRENCE	OTP-AM MAJ	S-547
DONNELLY	OTP-AM MIN	

LD 2103 proposed to authorize the Maine Public Drinking Water Commission to hire an independent auditor to conduct a comprehensive audit of the functions of the Maine Public Drinking Water Control Program, and to report the findings of that audit to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than September 15, 1998.

Part B of the bill proposed to require the Maine Public Drinking Water Control Program to provide the Maine Public Drinking Water Commission with an annual accounting of expenditures related to the program.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-547) (Majority Report) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to change the source of funding for the audit of the Maine Public Drinking Water Control Program from the Public Drinking Water Fund to federal funds held by the Department of Human Services. It also proposed to add an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 666 comprises the provisions of Committee Amendment "A". It provides for an independent audit of the Maine Public Drinking Water Control Program and funds the audit from federal funds held by the Department of Human Services. It requires a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by September 15, 1998 and an annual report of expenditures from the Public Drinking Water Fund. The law takes effect April 2, 1998.