

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

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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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-1008 S-615 PARADIS S-754 MICHAUD

LD 2225 contains the recommendations of the Maine Commission on Children's Health Care. It proposed to do the following:

1. Expand coverage under the Medicaid program for children ages 1 through 18 whose family income is below 150% of the federal poverty level (fpl), while retaining coverage for children below age 1 at 185% of fpl;
2. Establish the Cub Care program to provide health insurance coverage to children whose family income is between 150% and 185% of fpl and whose family pays a monthly premium. Enrolled families whose income exceeds the eligibility level for Medicaid or Cub Care may purchase Cub Care coverage for their children for 18 additional months at premium levels that equal the benefit cost plus an administrative fee;
3. Reauthorize the Maine Commission on Children's Health Care for a period of one year;
4. Appropriate and allocate the necessary funding to support the expansion of the Medicaid program and creation of the Cub Care program; and
5. Amend provisions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24 and Title 24-A related to insurance coordination of benefits, late enrollee status and continuity of coverage.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1008) proposed to change 2 drafting errors in the bill, amending the eligibility age for children in the Medicaid program and the Cub Care program from "under age 18" as mistakenly printed to read "under age 19" in both provisions as was intended by the Maine Commission on Children's Health Care. It also proposed to move the appropriation of \$1,970 for the expenses of the Maine Commission on Children's Health Care from fiscal year 1997-98 to fiscal year 1998-99. It proposed to correct financial and narrative entries in the bill connected to this change. It proposed to direct the Commissioner of Human Services to enter into a consultation process with federally recognized American Indian tribes, nations, bands or other groups and to adopt rules with regard to the participation of children who are members of those tribes, nations, bands or other groups.

It proposed to add an appropriation section and a fiscal note to the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-615) proposed to replace the language on provisions applicable to federally recognized Indian tribes with language that is more consistent with the Act to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement, Title 30, chapter 601.

Senate Amendment "B" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-754) proposed to remove the authorization for the Maine Commission on Children's Health Care and the related funding.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1997, chapter 777 comprises the provisions of the bill, Committee Amendment “A” and Senate Amendment “A”, and Senate Amendment “B” to Committee Amendment "A". The law enacts the recommendations of the Maine Commission on Children's Health Care. It does the following:

1. Expands coverage under the Medicaid program for children ages 1 through 18 years of age whose family income is below 150% fpl;
2. Establishes the Cub Care program to provide health insurance coverage to children whose family income is between 150% and 185% of fpl and whose family pays a monthly premium. Enrolled families whose income exceeds the eligibility level for Medicaid or Cub Care may purchase Cub Care coverage for their children for 18 additional months at premium levels that equal the benefit cost plus an administrative fee;
3. Appropriates and allocates the necessary funding to support the expansion of the Medicaid program and creation of the Cub Care program;
4. Amends provisions in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24 and Title 24-A related to insurance coordination of benefits, late enrollee status and continuity of coverage; and
5. Directs the Commissioner of Human Services to enter into a consultation process with federally recognized American Indian tribes, nations or bands and to adopt rules with regard to the participation of children who are members of those tribes, nations or bands. The law takes effect April 16, 1998.

LD 2228

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on
Registration of In-home Personal Care and Support Workers**

PUBLIC 716

Sponsor(s)

Committee Report
OTP-AM

Amendments Adopted
H-1065

LD 2228 proposed to require personal care agencies that are not otherwise licensed to register with the Division of Licensing and Certification within the Department of Human Services if the agency employs unlicensed assistive personnel to provide assistance to others in activities of daily living. The bill also proposed to require that personal care agencies conduct criminal record checks on unlicensed assistive personnel hired on or after July 1, 1998 and provided penalties for failure to register or perform criminal background checks.

The bill also proposed to require the Commissioner of Human Services to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters on or before January 1, 1999 on the feasibility of establishing a statewide system for checking the criminal histories of unlicensed assistive personnel and a registry for maintaining records of criminal convictions and substantiated complaints of abuse, neglect or misappropriation of funds in a health care setting by the year 2000.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1065) proposed to amend the bill. It proposed to require personal care agencies to register with the Department of Human Services. It proposed to prohibit personal care agencies from hiring under a long-term contract or employing permanently as unlicensed assistive personnel individuals who have