

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE  
119TH LEGISLATURE**

**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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

**JULY 1999**

**Staff:**  
*Jane Orbeton, Legislative Analyst*

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis  
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207)287-1670*

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**Maine State Legislature**  
**OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013  
Telephone: (207) 287-1670  
Fax: (207) 287-1275

**ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing and Select Committees**  
**August 1999**

We are pleased to provide this summary of all bills that were considered by the Joint Standing and Select Committees of the Maine Legislature this past session. 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 and select committees.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills considered by the 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:

*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  
*ENACTMENT FAILED*..... Bill failed to get vote required for enactment or final passage  
*NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY*..... Ruled out of order by the presiding officers; bill died  
*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 September 18, 1999.

**LD 169**                      **An Act to Increase Eligibility for the Elderly Low Cost Drug Program**                      **ONTP**

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

LD 169 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to study income eligibility and sliding scale copayments in the elderly low cost drug program. The bill proposed to require a report containing recommendations for legislation and rulemaking.

**LD 170**                      **An Act Regarding a Prescription Drug Consortium**                      **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
DOUGLASS BOLDUC	ONTP	

LD 170 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to establish or join with other states in a consortium for the purchase of prescription drugs for low-income and elderly Maine residents. The bill proposed to require a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2000 containing recommendations for legislation and rulemaking. See also LD 2082 and LD 206.

**LD 206**                      **Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Bulk Purchasing of Prescription Drugs and Medical Supplies**                      **RESOLVE 75 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
LEMOINE	OTP-AM	H-493 H-613 KANE

LD 206 proposed to establish the Maine Tax Filer's Prescription Medication Plan to provide medications to Maine residents at the lowest available prices through direct purchasing by the Department of Human Services.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-493)** proposed to replace the bill with a resolve and add an emergency preamble and emergency clause. It proposed to establish the Commission to Study Bulk Purchasing of Prescription Drugs and Medical Supplies, a 16-member commission charged with studying bulk purchasing of prescription drugs and medical supplies and reporting to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 1, 1999 a plan for bulk purchasing. The amendment also proposed to add an appropriation section.

**House Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (H-613)** proposed to reduce the size of the commission to 12 members, change the deadline for the first meeting to July 30, 1999, remove authority to hire consultants and restrict per diem and expense reimbursement to Legislators. The amendment also proposed to change the appropriation accordingly.

***Enacted law summary***

Resolve 1999, chapter 75 establishes the Commission to Study Bulk Purchasing of Prescription Drugs and Medical Supplies. The 12 member commission is charged with studying bulk purchasing of prescription drugs and medical supplies and reporting to the Health and Human Services Committee by December 1, 1999 a plan for bulk purchasing. See also LD 1926.

Chapter 75 was enacted as an emergency measure effective June 17, 1999.

**LD 207**

**An Act to Clarify the Confidentiality of Health Care Information**

**ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
BROOKS FERGUSON	ONTP	

LD 207 proposed to amend the laws regarding the confidentiality of health care information by repealing the changes made in Public Law 1997, chapter 793 by the Second Special Session of the 118th Legislature. See LD 1653.

**LD 237**

**An Act to Enhance Senior Volunteerism in Maine**

**P & S 44**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
PENDLETON KANE	OTP-AM	S-12

LD 237 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to provide a minimum of \$15,000 annually to each of the 8 community-based senior volunteer programs that received funding during fiscal year 1997-98. It also proposed to require that available funding be distributed equally among the programs.

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-12)** proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to delete the provisions regarding community-based agencies and add an appropriation of \$44,000 annually.

***Enacted law summary***

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 44 provides \$44,000 to the Department of Human Services for senior volunteer programs.