

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

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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).

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 241

An Act to Ensure that Autopsies and Toxicology Tests are Performed on Commercial Drivers Killed in the Course of Employment

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
NUTTING J CHIZMAR	ONTP	

LD 241 proposed to add commercial motor vehicle drivers who die during motor vehicle accidents that occur during the driver's scope of employment to the list of medical examiner cases for autopsy. The bill proposed to require the medical examiner to perform an autopsy and conduct toxicology tests on those commercial vehicle drivers.

LD 256

An Act to Enhance the Health of Maine Citizens by Improving Community Health Programs

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER PENDLETON		

LD 256 proposes to expand the responsibilities of the Maine Center for Public Health Practice to include evaluation of the health of Maine residents and the quality and effectiveness of health care and health programs and to require the center to make recommendations to improve the health of Maine residents and their access to health care and health programs.

This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature.

LD 257

An Act Regarding General Assistance

PUBLIC 45

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GLYNN AMERO	OTP-AM	H-45

LD 257 proposed to increase from 110% to 140% of the applicable existing housing fair market rents, as established by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, the maximum aggregate level of assistance in the municipal ordinance requirements of the general assistance program.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-45) proposed to replace the bill, change the bill title, and allow municipalities to provide emergency assistance under the general assistance program when an emergency is imminent and failure to respond may result in undue hardship and unnecessary costs.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 45 allows municipalities to provide emergency assistance under the general assistance program when an emergency is imminent and failure to respond may result in undue hardship and unnecessary costs.

LD 274 **An Act Regarding Persons Who May Draw Blood for Blood Tests** **PUBLIC 32**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> CAMERON		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-21
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LD 274 proposed to add registered lab technicians and certified phlebotomists to the list of persons who may draw blood samples to determine a person's blood-alcohol level or drug concentration.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-21) proposed to replace the title and the text of the bill. It proposed to allow persons qualified by professional training to draw blood samples for the purposes of blood-alcohol level or drug concentration tests under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 32 allows persons qualified by professional training to draw blood samples for the purposes of blood-alcohol level or drug concentration tests under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 29-A.

LD 276 **An Act to Require Review under the Certificate of Need Law When Health Care Services Are Terminated** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MAYO		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 276 proposed to make the termination of a health service by a health care facility, including a hospital, subject to the certificate of need law. The bill also proposed to clarify that the termination of a health service includes the relocation of a health care facility to another municipality.

LD 286 **An Act to Amend the Laws Concerning Release of Information on Hospitalized Individuals** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> STANWOOD		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 286 proposed to permit limited disclosure of health care information about an individual by a health care facility without a written authorization from the individual, including disclosure of admission and general condition of a patient to family or household members. LD 286 proposed to amend current law to permit any person to receive a statement of the fact of an individual's admission to or discharge from a health care facility. The bill proposed to limit the health care facilities from which this information can be obtained to those providing in-patient health care and that are not home health care providers, hospice programs, pharmacies, state mental health institutes or other named facilities. See also LD 1653.