

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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

JULY 2000

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Georgette B. Berube
Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell*

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of 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:

- 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
- 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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
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LD 256

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

ONTP

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

LD 256 proposed 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 making recommendations to improve the health of Maine residents and their access to health care and health programs.

LD 528

**An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force to
Study the Need for an Ombudsman for the Department of Human
Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation
and Substance Abuse Services Relating to the Department of
Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services**

P & S 95

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
	OTP-AM	H-1080 S-742 MICHAUD

LD 528 proposed to implement the recommendations of the Task Force to Study the Need for an Ombudsman for the Department of Human Services and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services related to the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1080) proposed to replace the bill. It reflects the work of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services on children's ombudsman functions. The amendment contains the following provisions.

1. The amendment proposed to repeal the statute that established the Child Welfare Services Ombudsman in the Department of Human Services, which has not been funded in recent years.
2. The amendment proposed to establish the Child Ombudsman Office to provide ombudsman services to children and families through a contract with a nonprofit organization. The office would be able to answer inquiries and investigate and work toward resolution of complaints regarding services and programs for children and families, provide information, assistance and legal representation services, provide an outreach program, collect and analyze information and report annually to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.
3. The amendment proposed to provide for access to records, confidentiality of those records and immunity from civil and criminal liability.
4. The amendment proposed to appropriate funds for the contract for the Child Ombudsman Office.

