

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 595

An Act to Require the Department of Human Services to Pay Legal Expenses in Custody Cases When the Department of Human Services Loses

ONTP

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

LD 595 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to pay the parents' or guardians' legal costs in child protection cases in which the court determines in a hearing that there should be no change in custody.

LD 610

Resolve, to Increase Access to Medicaid for People who Need Psychological Services

RESOLVE 73

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TOWNSEND	OTP-AM	H-208 S-401 MICHAUD

LD 610 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to increase the Medicaid reimbursement for psychological services.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-208) proposed to replace the resolve. It proposed to provide for an increase in the Medicaid reimbursement rate for licensed psychologists and licensed psychological examiners providing testing, treatment and evaluation services. It also proposed to add an appropriation section and an allocation section.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-401) proposed to change the effective date of the increase in reimbursement from October 1, 1999 to October 1, 2000 and change the appropriations and allocations to reflect the effective date change.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 73 directs the Department of Human Services to increase the Medicaid reimbursement for licensed psychologists and licensed psychological examiners providing testing, treatment and evaluation services beginning October 1, 2000.

LD 625

An Act Concerning the Authority of the Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority

ONTP

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

LD 625 proposed to limit the types of nursing homes qualified to receive Maine Health and Higher Educational Facilities Authority assistance, to require nonprofit nursing homes to acquire a certificate of need before