

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> LIBBY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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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> TOWNSEND	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-208 S-401 MICHAUD
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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> TOWNSEND HARRIMAN	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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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

receiving authority assistance and to require the authority to establish criteria for all applicants for authority assistance.

LD 645 **An Act to Require Disclosure of Ingredients in Tobacco Products** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> MILLS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 645 proposed to require manufacturers of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco sold in this State to disclose annually in reports to the Department of Human Services added constituents and nicotine yield ratings.

LD 656 **An Act to Adjust the Alternative Funding Mechanism for the Maine Public Drinking Water Commission** **INDEF PP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> NUTTING J PIEH		<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 656 proposed to require the Maine Public Drinking Water Commission to establish a drinking water fee to fund the staffing of the Maine Public Drinking Water Control Program. This fee would be imposed on community public water systems. Currently the annual fee is assessed on all public water supplies. This change would relieve noncommunity public water systems, such as restaurants, lodging places and schools from paying this fee. This bill also proposed to appropriate additional funds to go into the named account from the General Fund to fund 3 positions in the Maine Public Drinking Water Control Program, within the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Division of Health Engineering.

LD 688 **An Act to Allow Medical History and Other Information to be Distributed to Immediate Family** **ONTP**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> GOODWIN PARADIS		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 688 proposed to amend current law so that the health care information a patient's family or household members may receive from a health care facility without written authorization would include the patient's physical, mental or behavioral condition, personal or family medical history or medical treatment or health care provided to the patient. See also LD 1653.

LD 693 **An Act to Alter the Administration of the Dental Cub Care Program** **ONTP**

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