

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
BANKING AND INSURANCE**

JULY 1999

MEMBERS:

Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III, Chair

Sen. Neria R. Douglass.

Sen. I. Joel Abromson

Rep. Jane W. Saxl, Chair

Rep. Christopher P. O'Neil

Rep. Joseph C. Perry

Rep. Benjamin F. Dudley

Rep. John G. Richardson, Jr.

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Rep. Sumner A. Jones, Jr.

Rep. Kevin J. Glynn

Rep. Robert W. Nutting

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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 608

An Act to Require Health Insurers to Reply to Payment Requests by Family Practice Nurse Practitioners within a Certain Time

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROSEN MITCHELL B	ONTP	

LD 608 proposed to require that health insurance carriers respond to requests for reimbursement from family practice nurse practitioners within 60 days of the request for reimbursement.

LD 622

An Act to Increase Consumer Confidence in Insurance Companies

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SKOGLUND DOUGLASS	ONTP MAJ OTP MIN	

LD 622 proposed to require that insurers, nonprofit hospital, medical or health care service organizations and health maintenance organizations disclose to insured persons the profits of the company over the past 12 months or, in the case of a nonprofit organization, the salary of the organization's highest paid company official at the time the insureds are billed for an insurance policy or contract.

LD 631

An Act to Establish a Patient's Bill of Rights

ONTP

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

LD 631 proposed to incorporate into Maine law many of the provisions contained in the proposed federal "Patients' Bill of Rights" legislation. The provisions proposed to govern the following:

1. Access to out-of-network providers;
2. Access to obstetrical and gynecological care;
3. Access to specialty care;
4. Continuity of care;
5. Access to prescription drugs;
6. Access to clinical trials;
7. Availability of independent external review of appeals;
8. Prohibition of financial incentives for providers;
9. Establishment of an independent nonprofit health care ombudsman program; and

10. Right of enrollees to sue health plans.

See related bills LD 750, 1619 and 1890.

LD 634 **Resolve, to Direct the Superintendent of Insurance to Evaluate a Separate Workers' Compensation Classification Code for Milk Haulers** **ONTP**

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

LD 634 proposed to require the Superintendent of Insurance to evaluate whether workers' compensation classification systems should contain a separate classification for milk haulers.

LD 649 **An Act to Allow the Use of the 1990 American Dental Association Form for Submission of Insurance Claims** **ONTP**

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

LD 649 proposed to require that nonprofit hospital, medical and health care service organizations, insurers and health maintenance organizations accept the submission of the 1990 American Dental Association standard claim form for dental insurance claims. This bill was an emergency and would have taken effect when enacted.

LD 750 **An Act to Establish a Patient's Bill of Rights** **CARRIED OVER**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
SAXL J LAFOUNTAIN		

LD 750 incorporates into law many of the provisions contained in the proposed federal patient bill of rights legislation. The provisions govern the following:

1. Coverage of emergency services;
2. Access to out-of-network providers;
3. Access to obstetrical and gynecological care;
4. Access to specialty care;
5. Continuity of care;
6. Access to prescription drugs;