

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.

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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LD 693 proposed to require the Cub Care Program to be administered by a private third-party health benefits administrator licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 24 or 24-A beginning January 1, 2000.

LD 721

An Act to Amend the Radon Registration Act

PUBLIC 76

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> TESSIER CATHCART	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-91
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LD 721 proposed to amend the Radon Registration Act to allow the Department of Human Services to authorize radon testing devices and facilities that are approved by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-91) proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to remove reference to the United States Environmental Protection Agency to allow radon testing devices and facilities that have proven their proficiency to the Department of Human Services.

This bill was submitted on behalf of the Department of Human Services.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 76 amends the Radon Registration Act to allow the Department of Human Services to authorize radon testing devices and facilities that have proven their proficiency to the Department of Human Services.

LD 725

Resolve, to Study the Confidentiality of Information Regarding Persons Receiving Services Funded in Whole or in Part by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services

RESOLVE 30

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> KANE MITCHELL B	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-266
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LD 725 proposed to restrict the release of mental health information among members of local service networks to information concerning persons whose care is paid for in whole or in part by the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-266) proposed to replace the bill, changing it to a resolve. It proposed to require the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to study the confidentiality of information regarding persons receiving services funded in whole or in part by the department and report its findings and any recommended legislation to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 1, 2000. The study would include participation from consumers and providers of services, Legislators and local service networks and would consider the requirements of professional ethical standards and state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

Enacted law summary