

# 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**

**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. Judy Paradis, Chair  
Sen. Georgette B. Berube  
Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell*

*Rep. Thomas J. Kane, Chair  
Rep. Joseph E. Brooks  
Rep. Elaine Fuller  
Rep. Michael W. Quint  
Rep. Edward R. Dugay  
Rep. Daniel B. Williams  
Rep. Glenys P. Lovett  
Rep. Tarren R. Bragdon  
Rep. Lois A. Snowe-Mello  
Rep. Thomas F. Shields*

**Staff:**

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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](http://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*  
*ONT P..... Ought Not To Pass report accepted*  
*OT P ND..... Committee report Ought To Pass In New Draft*  
*OT P 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.

*David E. Boulter, Director*  
Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101/107/135

**LD 758**

**An Act to Allow the State's Laboratory Certification Program to be  
Consistent with National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation  
Program Standards**

**PUBLIC 62**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
MITCHELL B QUINT	OTP-AM	S-23

LD 758 proposed to make technical changes to Maine's laboratory certification program to make it consistent with the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program requirements in order to compete in out-of-state markets.

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

**Committee Amendment "A" (S-23)** proposed to require a laboratory that tests a public water system for drinking program compliance mandates to forward a copy of the test results to the Department of Human Services. The amendment also proposed to limit testing by laboratories licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 413 to testing of their own waste discharges.

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 62 makes technical changes to Maine's laboratory certification program to make it consistent with the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program requirements in order to compete in out-of-state markets. It requires a laboratory that tests a public water system for drinking program compliance mandates to forward a copy of the test results to the Department of Human Services. It limits testing by laboratories licensed under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 413 to testing of their own waste discharges.

**LD 777**

**An Act to Require Nursing Facilities to Use Standardized Contracts**

**ONTP**

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

LD 777 proposed to require the Commissioner of Human Services to adopt rules to require every nursing facility to adopt a standardized nursing home contract prescribed by the department. The bill proposed the standardized contract to clarify the rights and obligations of residents and enable residents and their families to compare the rates charged and services offered by different nursing homes.