

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 1210

An Act to Amend the Site Evaluator Licensing Laws

PUBLIC 86

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| COWGER KILKELLY | OTP-AM | H-102 |

LD 1210 proposed to expand the authority of the Department of Human Services to adopt rules governing licensing of persons to evaluate soils and to design subsurface wastewater disposal systems. The bill also proposed to raise fees for the examination of licensed site evaluators and the site evaluator license.

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

Committee Amendment "A" (H-102) proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 86 expands the authority of the Department of Human Services to adopt rules governing licensing of persons to evaluate soils and to design subsurface wastewater disposal systems including the competence and ethics of licensees and the revocation of licenses. This law also raises fees for the examination of licensed site evaluators and the site evaluator license to cover the cost of administering the program.

LD 1228

An Act to Increase Payments to Foster Parents

**VETO
SUSTAINED**

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| TESSIER KONTOS | OTP-AM | H-131 S-393 MICHAUD |

LD 1228 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to adopt rules increasing the payments to foster parents by \$50 per month. It also proposed to designate the rules as routine technical rules.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-131) proposed to add an appropriation and an allocation.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-393) proposed to change the effective date of the increase to October 1, 2000 and change the appropriations and allocations to reflect this date.

The bill as amended was enacted by the Legislature and subsequently vetoed by the Governor.

LD 1229

Resolve, to Promote Community Mental Health Services

ONTP

| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> | <u>Committee Report</u> | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| TESSIER | ONTP | |

LD 1229 proposed to require the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to adopt rules by January 1, 2000 regarding community mental health services. The bill proposed to require contracts to separate fixed-amount grant funds from Medicaid reimbursement funds, which would vary with the amount of services rendered by the mental health services provider.

LD 1270 **An Act to Provide Child Care Subsidies for Families Who Lose Coverage under the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program** **PUBLIC 383**

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> PARADIS | | <u>Committee Report</u> OTP | | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------|

LD 1270 proposed to authorize the Department of Human Services to provide transitional child care services to families who elect to discontinue receiving TANF benefits but who have earned income. See Part 2 budget, Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part A-4.

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

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 383 authorizes the Department of Human Services to provide transitional child care services to families who elect to discontinue receiving TANF benefits but who have earned income.

LD 1283 **An Act to Expand Access to the Elderly Low-cost Drug Program** **ONTP**

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> STANWOOD | | <u>Committee Report</u> ONTP | | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------|

LD 1283 proposed to lower the eligibility requirements for the elderly low-cost drug program to allow a household that spends at least 25% of its income on prescription drugs to participate in the program. See also Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part KKK and chapter 531, Part F.

LD 1290 **An Act to Create the Position of Ombudsman in the Department of Human Services** **CARRIED OVER**

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| <u>Sponsor(s)</u> PLOWMAN | | <u>Committee Report</u> | | <u>Amendments Adopted</u> |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|

LD 1290 proposes to create the Office of Human Services Ombudsman, an autonomous agency designed to represent the best interests of individuals involved in matters in the Department of Human Services and to provide independent clinical oversight for cases in the Department of Human Services.