

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

JULY 1999

Staff:
Jane Orbeton, Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Room 101/107/135, 13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*

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*



Maine State Legislature
OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

13 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0013
Telephone: (207) 287-1670
Fax: (207) 287-1275

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.

This bill also proposes to give Legislators access to records maintained by the ombudsman relating to child custody cases in which the department is involved, as long as the parents of the child agree. See also LDs 114, 528 and 975.

This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature.

LD 1296 Resolve, to Create the Task Force to Explore Alternative Payment Mechanisms for Dental Health Care INDEF PP

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

LD 1296 proposed to create a task force of 7 members to study payment mechanisms for dental health care different from the existing Medicaid reimbursement system. The alternative payment mechanisms could include voucher systems, copayments or other mechanisms that allow for fair compensation to a dentist while reducing the amount of paperwork and administration of the payment process. The task force would report recommendations and possible proposed legislation concerning alternative payment mechanisms for dental health care to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 1, 1999.

LD 1312 An Act to Improve Consumers' Opportunities to Hire and Retain Personal Care Attendants INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER	OTP-AM	

LD 1312 proposed to require the Department of Human Services to adopt rules by October 1, 1999 to increase the reimbursement rates of consumer-directed personal care attendants. The bill also proposed to enact a mechanism to ensure a review of the reimbursement rates every 2 years and require input from consumers and the Long-term Care Steering Committee as part of the review process. See Part 2 budget, Public Law 1999, chapter 401, part SS.

LD 1315 An Act to Ensure the Quality and Safety of Child Care and to Expand Home Visiting Services PUBLIC 515

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ROWE LONGLY	OTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	S-435 MICHAUD

LD 1315 proposed to provide additional General Fund appropriations for child care services, Head Start and the Auditing, Contracting and Licensing Service Center to the Department of Human Services. This bill also proposed to require the Department of Human Services to adopt rules to implement the programs funded in the bill.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-435) proposed to do the following:

1. \$2,910,000 from the Fund for a Healthy Maine in FY 2000-01 for home visiting services.
2. \$1,575,000 from General Fund FY 99-2000 for one-time quality improvements in child care training and facilities.
3. \$2,093,179 from Fund for a Healthy Maine in FY 2000-01 for child care subsidies.
4. \$962,850 from Fund for a Healthy Maine in FY 2000-01 for school-aged child care subsidies.
5. \$525,000 from Fund for a Healthy Maine in FY 2000-01 for after-school services to children age 12 to 15.
6. \$300,000 from Fund for a Healthy Maine in FY 2000-01 for child care related quality improvements such as wages, training and facility improvements.
7. \$1,442,859 from Fund for a Healthy Maine for FY 2000-01 for child care resource development centers.
8. \$392,362 from Fund for a Healthy Maine for FY 2000-01 for 10 positions in the Auditing, Contracting and Licensing Center.

It also directs the Department of Human Services to adopt rules relating to the provision of after-school care, full-day year-round Head Start programming and procurement of federal funds.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 515 provides additional appropriations and allocations for children's services as follows:

1. \$2,910,000 from the Fund for a Healthy Maine in FY 2000-01 for home visiting services.
2. \$1,575,000 from General Fund FY 99-2000 for one-time quality improvements in child care training and facilities.
3. \$2,093,179 from Fund for a Healthy Maine in FY 2000-01 for child care subsidies.
4. \$962,850 from Fund for a Healthy Maine in FY 2000-01 for school-aged child care subsidies.
5. \$525,000 from Fund for a Healthy Maine in FY 2000-01 for after-school services to children age 12 to 15.
6. \$300,000 from Fund for a Healthy Maine in FY 2000-01 for child care related quality improvements such as wages, training and facility improvements.
7. \$1,442,859 from Fund for a Healthy Maine for FY 2000-01 for child care resource development centers.
8. \$392,362 from Fund for a Healthy Maine for FY 2000-01 for 10 positions in the Auditing, Contracting and Licensing Center.

It also directs the Department of Human Services to adopt rules relating to the provision of after-school care, full-day year-round Head Start programming and procurement of federal funds.

See also LD 956, which contained home visiting funding proposals. See also PL 401, Parts LLL & MMM, which are repealed in Part A of this law and replaced by the provisions of it.

LD 1322 An Act to Ensure the Availability of Home-based Care CARRIED OVER

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

LD 1322 proposes to ensure that in-home care for persons who are in need of long-term care is made available to all eligible participants. This bill also proposes to provide that funds appropriated to the in-home care account do not lapse at the end of the fiscal year, but are carried over to the next fiscal year. It also proposes to require that funds appropriated to the nursing home account but not spent be transferred to the in-home care account.

This bill has been carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature.

LD 1349 An Act to Protect Citizens from the Detrimental Effects of Tobacco PUBLIC 54

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

LD 1349 proposed to include a restaurant in the definition of "public place" where smoking is prohibited. It proposed to continue to allow smoking in a Class A lounge or tavern.

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

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 54 prohibits smoking in restaurants by including a restaurant in the definition of "public place" where smoking is prohibited. Smoking continues to be permitted in a Class A lounge or tavern.

LD 1363 An Act to Increase the Availability of Glucose Screenings ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COWGER TREAT	ONTP MAJ OTP-AM MIN	

LD 1363 proposed to prohibit any restrictions on where screening tests, including glucose screening tests to diagnose diabetes, may be performed.