

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.

Chapter 353 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 28, 1999.

LD 1432 An Act to Improve Care to Nursing Home Residents by Requiring Adequate Staff to Provide Hands-on Care CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
ETNIER BENNETT		

LD 1432 proposes to increase the ratios of direct-care providers to residents, define "direct care" as hands-on care and require extra staff at meal times to ensure adequate nutrition to residents. This bill proposes to require the Department of Human Services to contract with one or more experts in the field of nurse staffing research and long-term care to recommend a methodology for determining appropriate nursing facility staffing levels based on resident acuity and to report back to the Legislature by May 1, 1999.

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

LD 1472 An Act to Clarify Reimbursement for Cognitive Services ONTP

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

LD 1472 proposed to require that nonprofit hospital and medical service organizations, health insurers and health maintenance organizations provide coverage and reimbursement for cognitive services for persons with schizophrenia. It proposed to apply to all individual and group policies and contracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2000. LD 1472 also proposed to require that these services be covered under the state Medicaid program.

LD 1477 An Act to Promote Healthy Maine Families CARRIED OVER

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

LD 1477 proposes to extend Medicaid coverage to the parents or the caretaker relative of those children who are eligible for the Maine Medicaid program if their family income is below 150% of the nonfarm income official poverty line. Eligibility would be increased up to 185% of the nonfarm income official poverty line when nonfarm income official matching funds become available.

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

Committee Amendment "A" (S-339) is the majority report of the committee. It proposed to replace the bill. It proposed to retain the provisions of the bill that extend Medicaid coverage to parents and caretaker relatives of children eligible for the Medicaid program and adds an income adjustment mechanism to ensure that coverage for the parents and caretaker relatives is provided within the limits of the program budget. It proposed to clarify

that transitional support services are provided to families receiving Medicaid benefits under the Social Security Act, Section 1931. It proposed to repeal obsolete provisions in the transitional Medicaid statutes. It proposed to add an appropriation and an allocation.

Committee Amendment "B" (S-340) is the minority report of the committee. It proposed to replace the bill with provisions identical to the majority report with the exception of funding. It proposed to provide an effective date of 30 days after receipt of the national tobacco settlement revenues for the provisions of the bill. It proposed to add an appropriation and an allocation.

After a recommendation from the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee not to provide funding for this bill, this bill was recommitted to committee and carried over to the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature.

LD 1478 **Resolve, to Require the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services to Contract for the Operation of a Stabilization Facility** **ONTP**

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

LD 1478 would have required the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Office of Substance Abuse to enter into a contract for short-term stabilization services in a secure facility in the Lewiston-Auburn area. Persons needing stabilization following substance abuse would use these facilities rather than hospital emergency rooms, as is current practice.

LD 1508 **Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Determine the Effectiveness and Quality of Care of In-home Care Services** **ONTP**

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

LD 1508 proposed to establish the Task Force to Determine the Effectiveness and Quality of Care of In-home Care Services. Members would have included two Legislators, three people who use home health care services and one person who represents the home health care industry. The bill proposed that the task force report its findings to the Legislature by January 15, 2000.

LD 1511 **An Act to Provide Efficient and Continuous High-quality Service to Mental Health Consumers** **ONTP**

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