

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
BANKING AND INSURANCE**

JULY 2000

MEMBERS:

Sen. Lloyd P. LaFountain III, Chair

Sen. Neria R. Douglass

Sen. I. Joel Abromson

Rep. Jane W. Saxl, Chair

Rep. Christopher P. O'Neil

Rep. Joseph C. Perry

Rep. Benjamin F. Dudley

Rep. John G. Richardson, Jr.

Rep. Nancy B. Sullivan

Rep. Arthur F. Mayo III

Rep. Sumner A. Jones, Jr.

Rep. Kevin J. Glynn

Rep. Robert W. Nutting

Staff:

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ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Summary Of Legislation Before The Joint Standing Committees
July 2000

We are pleased to provide this summary of 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:

- 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
- FAILED EMERGENCY ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....Emergency bill failed to get 2/3 vote
- FAILED ENACTMENT/FINAL PASSAGE.....Bill failed to get majority vote
- FAILED MANDATE ENACTMENT.....Bill imposing local mandate failed to get 2/3 vote
- 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 Second Regular Session (unless otherwise specified in a particular law) is August 11, 2000.

David E. Boulter, Director
 Offices Located in the State House, Rooms 101 & 107

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LAWRENCE	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1619, which was carried over from the First Regular Session, proposed to establish a "Patients' Bill of Rights" for Maine residents enrolled in HMO's and other health plans. The bill proposed to:

1. Ensure access to obstetrical and gynecological care;
2. Ensure access to specialty care for seriously ill patients;
3. Ensure continuity of care when a physician is dropped from a health plan;
4. Ensure access to prescription drugs;
5. Ensure access to clinical trials;
6. Provide patients with access to an independent external review of decisions regarding health care coverage and services;
7. Prohibit offering financial incentives to providers to limit necessary and appropriate medical care;
8. Establish an independent consumer assistance program to provide assistance and advocacy services to patients in selecting a health insurance plan, utilizing the plan and filing grievances and appeals of plan decisions;
9. Provide patients with the right to sue their health plan if the plan's failure to exercise ordinary care in making treatment decisions causes an injury to a patient; and
10. Require health plans to disclose information about their costs, benefits and performance.

See related bill, LD 750.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> ABROMSON	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1640, which was carried over from the First Regular Session, proposed to establish regulatory standards for providers of service contracts and exempt these contracts from all other provisions of the Maine Insurance Code. The bill also proposed to exempt from the Maine Insurance Code other types of contracts, including warranties, maintenance agreements, service contracts offered for sale to persons other than consumers and warranties, service contracts and maintenance agreements offered by public utilities on their transmission devices to the extent they are regulated by the Public Utilities Commission.