

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 1724

Resolve, to Establish Reimbursement Funding for Transportation Costs to and From Dialysis Treatment Facilities

INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'GARA QUINT	OTP-AM	

LD 1724 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to develop a plan, establish criteria and provide funding for transportation to treatments for end-stage renal disease patients. The resolve proposed to provide funding for those patients who do not qualify for any other type of transportation reimbursement.

LD 1727

An Act to Require the Office of Substance Abuse to Report on Certain Child Care Services

ONTP

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

LD 1727 proposed to require the Office of Substance Abuse to include in its recommendations submitted to the Legislature recommendations regarding the provision of child care services to a child whose parent or primary caregiver is receiving substance abuse services and improvements for all state alcohol and drug abuse programs.

LD 1733

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Provision of Services to Persons with Alzheimer's Disease

CARRIED OVER

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

LD 1733 proposes to require the Department of Human Services to consider the fluctuating nature of Alzheimer's disease so that the medical and social needs of a person being evaluated for the disease can be fully assessed and the appropriate level of services provided.

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

LD 1755

An Act to Improve Access to Dental Care for Children

PUBLIC 301

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER TREAT	OTP-AM	H-274 H-529 KANE

LD 1755 proposed to require the Department of Human Services and the Department of Education to undertake three studies and to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2000. The proposed studies would concern mobile vans for dental services, residency programs in dentistry and reimbursement rates for dentistry paid through the Medicaid program. It proposed that increases in dental fees be tied to increases in the Consumer Price Index.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-274) proposed to delete the requirement that Medicaid reimbursed dental fees be adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index. It also proposed to require the Finance Authority of Maine rather than the Department of Education to study dental residency programs. The amendment proposed to add to the study the issues of the need for additional dental professionals and strategies and incentives to improve access to dental care for children and low-income residents.

House Amendment "A" (H-529) proposed a change in the reporting date for the Department of Human Services, from January 1, 2000 to December 31, 1999.

Enacted law summary

Public Law 1999, chapter 301 requires the Department of Human Services to annually review reimbursement rates for dentistry paid through the Medicaid program and the Cub Care program. The law also requires a review of the use of mobile vans to provide diagnostic and preventative programs in remote or under served areas of the State.

This law also requires the Finance Authority of Maine to study dental residency programs, the need for more dental professionals in Maine and strategies and incentives for improving access to dental care for children and low-income residents. The results of the studies required by this law must be reported back to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 31, 1999.

LD 1760 Resolve, to Create the Commission to Study the Provision of Mental Health Services to the Elderly ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> POWERS	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1760 proposed to establish the Commission to Study the Provision of Mental Health Services to the Elderly. The duties of the commission would include studying the needs of the elderly population with mental illness. The commission would have been required to report its findings to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by January 1, 2000. The Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services would have been authorized to submit legislation in the Second Regular Session of the 119th Legislature to implement the commission's recommendations.

LD 1807 Resolve, to Encourage Access and Quality Care for People with Alzheimer's Disease in Residential Care Facilities CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> COLWELL PARADIS	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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