

# 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](http://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.

**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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LD 1807 proposes to require the Department of Human Services to review the case mix assessment tool and reimbursement rate for residential care facilities to ensure access and quality care for persons with Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia.

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

**LD 1809**

**An Act to Increase Access to Cub Care for Children**

**PUBLIC 522**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
KANE	OTP-AM MAJ	H-595
LONGLEY	ONTP MIN	S-437 MICHAUD

LD 1809 proposed to raise the maximum eligibility level of the Cub Care program to 200% of the federal poverty line. This bill also proposed to establish a drug rebate program within the Cub Care program similar to the elderly low-cost drug program.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-595)** proposed to model the Cub Care drug rebate program after the Medicaid drug program to allow a broader spectrum of pharmaceuticals to be covered.

**Senate Amendment "A" (S-437)** proposed to make clear that the rebate in the Cub Care program is to be modeled after the rebate in the Medicaid program, except that the supplemental 6% rebate required by the Maine Medicaid program does not apply to the Cub Care program. It proposed to replace Committee Amendment "A".

***Enacted law summary***

Public Law 1999, chapter 522 establishes a drug rebate program within the Cub Care program modeled after the Medicaid drug rebate program, except that the supplemental 6% rebate required by the Maine Medicaid program does not apply to the Cub Care program.

**LD 1812**

**Resolve, to Require the Development of a Basic Needs Budget**

**RESOLVE 62**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
COWGER	OTP-AM	H-450
		S-397 MICHAUD

LD 1812 proposed to require the Department of Human Services, Division of Purchased and Support Services, in connection with its current duty to monitor the poverty level in the State, to compile and publish an annual basic needs budget for a single parent with 2 children that includes basic expenses and a calculation of the income needed to meet this basic needs budget.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-450)** proposed to replace the bill with a resolve. It proposed to direct the Executive Department, State Planning Office to develop a basic needs budget in cooperation with the Department of Human Services. The amendment also proposed to add an appropriation.

**Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)** proposed to remove the proposed appropriation to the State Planning Office.