

# 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**

**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*

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**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](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.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> FULLER MITCHELL B	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP-AM	<u>Amendments Adopted</u> H-268 H-544 KANE
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LD 1905 proposed to establish a program within the Department of Human Services to identify and collect information on birth defects. The program would undertake research, be authorized to collect information, have access to health care records and information and provide information to families on available services. The bill would require a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by January 1st of each year on the operation of the program.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-268)** proposed to create an exception to the provisions requiring the reporting and entry into the central registry of information regarding birth defects for a child whose parent or legal guardian objects on the basis of sincerely held religious beliefs. It also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

**House Amendment "A" (H-544)** proposed to change the reporting date to the last business day of the year.

#### *Enacted law summary*

Public Law 1999, chapter 344 establishes a program within the Department of Human Services to identify and collect information on birth defects and exempts from reporting and entry into the central registry of information regarding birth defects for a child whose parent or legal guardian objects on the basis of sincerely held religious beliefs. The program will undertake research, is authorized to collect information, has access to health care records and information and may provide information to families on available services. The bill requires a report on the operation of the program to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters by the last business day of each year.

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> LONGLEY	<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 1926 proposed to establish Maine's Business Advisory Committee on Prescription Drug Costs and Efficiencies. The advisory committee would conduct a study concerning outpatient prescription drug prices in the State and would obtain comparable pricing from other states and countries. The advisory committee would create model discount and rebate agreements using existing pharmaceutical discount purchasing and assistance programs such as those offered through Medicaid, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, public health services and other successful programs in other states and countries to secure the highest discounts and rebates available on prescription drugs. See also LD 206.