

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

AUGUST 1999

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Mary R. Cathcart
Sen. Philip E. Harriman

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Rep. Kathleen A. Stevens
Rep. Randall L. Berry
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Rep. Judith A. Powers
Rep. Paul L. Tessier
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Rep. Tom J. Winsor
Rep. Joseph Bruno
Rep. Richard A. Nass

Staff:

J. Timothy Leet, Senior Legislative Analyst

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MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: J. Timothy Leet, Senior Legislative Analyst

Date: August, 1999

Re: Bill Summaries, 119th Legislature, 1st Regular Session

Enclosed please find a summary of all bills, resolves, joint study orders, joint resolutions and Constitutional resolutions that were considered by the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs during the 1st Regular Session of the 119th Legislature. The summary describes each bill or order and relevant amendments as well as the final action. Also included is a statistical summary of bill activity by the committee. Please note the effective date for all non-emergency legislation enacted in the 1st Regular Session (unless a later date is specified in a particular law) is September 18, 1999. Joint orders are effective when passed.

The document is organized for convenient reference to information on bills handled by the committee this session. It is organized by bill (LD) number and two indices are located at the back of the document that group bills by subject and by LD number. 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*
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*
READ AND PASSED..... *Joint Order passed by the House and Senate*
PASSED AS AMENDED *Joint Order passed as amended by the House and Senate*

A complete summary of bills for all committees will be available in the very near future. Copies will be on file in the Law and Legislative Reference Library and Senate and House offices. You will also soon be able to access these bill summaries from our website.

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact this office.

Best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

LD 1939**An Act to Fund a Minimum Level of Services for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons in all Regions of the State****VETO
SUSTAINED**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
TREAT	OTP-AM	S-206 S-420 MICHAUD

LD 1939 proposed in Part A to make General Fund appropriations to the rehabilitation services programs in the Department of Labor to expand services for the deaf and the hard-of-hearing.

Part B of the bill proposed to establish a study committee to be convened by the Division of Deafness to review the division's current legal interpreting contract to recommend improvements that would better serve the needs of the deaf and the hard-of-hearing.

Part C of the bill proposed to expand upon the review required by Resolve 1997, chapter 90 by requiring the continuation of a review of the Division of Deafness by the Department of Labor with a reporting date of December 1, 1999.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-206) proposed to reduce the General Fund appropriation to \$200,000 annually for additional community services to be provided by the Maine Center on Deafness. It eliminated Part B of the bill and required that the recommendations of the Department of Labor's review be provided to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

Senate Amendment "A" to Committee Amendment "A" (S-420) proposed to further reduce the amount of General Fund appropriations for community services to be provided by the Maine Center on Deafness.

The bill, as amended by these amendments, was vetoed by the Governor and the veto sustained.

LD 1973**An Act to Increase the Availability of Home Care Services for Maine's Elderly****ONTP**

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

LD 1973 proposed to exempt an individual who contracts with a home health care worker to provide health care services to that individual from the employment laws, such as minimum wage, hours and unemployment insurance provisions and from the workers' compensation provisions. This exemption would only have applied, if the worker contracted directly with the patient or the patient's family. A home health care worker who would have been contracted with using an agency would have been considered the employee of that agency.

This bill also proposed to appropriate \$3,000,000 from the General Fund for fiscal years 1999-00 and 2000-01 to the Department of Human Services, Bureau of Elder and Adult Services for the purpose of eliminating waiting lists of elderly and disabled individuals now requiring home-based care services, homemaker services, Alzheimer respite and Alzheimer adult day care services. These services would have allowed these individuals to remain in their homes and avoid inappropriate and expensive institutional services.