

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**STATE OF MAINE
119TH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

**BILL SUMMARIES
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE
ON
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

JULY 2000

MEMBERS:

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Sen. Georgette B. Berube
Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell*

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Staff:

Jane Orbeton, Senior Legislative Analyst

*Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
13 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
(207)287-1670*



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
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

shelter. The department's responsibility to provide 100% reimbursement would be limited to the recipient's first 45 consecutive days in the institution. The bill also proposed to clarify that hotels, motels or rooming houses would be considered to be homeless shelters when the municipality places applicants in transient housing facilities because no permanent housing for the applicant is available. Finally, this bill proposed to clarify that any general assistance issued by a municipality that is reimbursed 100% by the department will not be counted as net general assistance for the purpose of calculating the level of non-100% reimbursement that is provided the municipality by the department.

LD 1963 **An Act to Establish the Maine Council on Aging** **DIED BETWEEN BODIES**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER	OTP-AM MAJ ONTP MIN	

LD 1963 proposed to establish the Maine Council on Aging as an independent advisory council. The council's duties would include advising, consulting and assisting the executive and legislative branches of State Government on issues and activities related to older people; advocating on behalf of older people; disseminating information, sponsoring forums and holding a statewide Blaine House Conference on Aging at least every 2 years.

LD 1984 **An Act to Establish Department of Human Services Review Panels** **ONTP**

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

LD 1984 proposed to establish 6 regional Department of Human Services review panels that would review all services provided by the department for efficiency and cost effectiveness. The panels would report to the Governor and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over human services matters and make recommendations to the Commissioner of Human Services.

LD 2046 **An Act to Amend the Powers of Hospital Administrative District No. 1** **P & S 84 EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
CATHCART MICHAUD	OTP-AM	S-607

LD 2046 proposed to amend the powers of Hospital Administrative District No. 1.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-607) proposed to replace the bill and add emergency language. It proposed to retain most of the provisions of the bill regarding the powers of Hospital Administrative District No. 1. The amendment proposed to remove the provisions of the bill that pertain to an executive committee of the board of directors. The provision pertaining to the voting lists would be repealed and reenacted to correct a numbering error in the law.

The amendment proposed to require a public informational meeting to be held prior to the directors voting on a project to be bonded. It proposed to increase the debt limitation to \$7,000,000. It proposed to amend the petition for referendum provision to lower the number of signatures required, increase the time period for collecting signatures, provide that the clerks of the municipalities verify the signatures on the petitions and change the vote from a districtwide meeting at which the vote is taken to a vote in each municipality, in the same manner as a general election. It proposed to require the referendum vote to be held within 120 days from receipt of the petition. It proposed to prohibit splitting a project for purposes of evading a requirement of law. It proposed to add a provision that subjects to referendum all bond issues in an amount of \$2,000,000 or more that are approved by the board of directors of the Hospital Administrative District after January 1, 2002.

This amendment proposed to add municipal mandate override language because of the provision that requires the clerks of the municipalities to verify the signatures on the petitions.

It also proposed to add a fiscal note to the bill.

Enacted law summary

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 84 amends the powers of Hospital Administrative District No. 1 in Lincoln. It requires a public informational meeting to be held prior to the directors voting on a project to be bonded. It increases the debt limitation to \$7,000,000. It amends the petition for referendum provision to lower the number of signatures required, increase the time period for collecting signatures, provide that the clerks of the municipalities verify the signatures on the petitions and change the vote from a districtwide meeting at which the vote is taken to a vote in each municipality, in the same manner as a general election. It requires the referendum vote to be held within 120 days from receipt of the petition. It prohibits splitting a project for purposes of evading a requirement of law. It adds a provision that subjects to referendum all bond issues in an amount of \$2,000,000 or more that are approved by the board of directors of the Hospital Administrative District after January 1, 2002.

Private and Special Law 1999, chapter 84 was enacted as an emergency measure effective April 14, 2000.

LD 2119

An Act to Enhance Competition and Public Health

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u> O'NEIL LAWRENCE		<u>Committee Report</u> ONTP		<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2119 proposed to prohibit the free distribution of tobacco products to any person in the ordinary course of trade, business or other corporate enterprise and create a civil penalty similar to that in current law for the sale of unpackaged cigarettes. This prohibition is distinguished from another in current law that prohibits the free distribution of tobacco products to minors by any person whether that person is acting in