

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

**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*

MEMBERS:

*Sen. Judy Paradis, Chair
Sen. Georgette B. Berube
Sen. Betty Lou Mitchell*

*Rep. Thomas J. Kane, Chair
Rep. Joseph E. Brooks
Rep. Elaine Fuller
Rep. Michael W. Quint
Rep. Edward R. Dugay
Rep. Daniel B. Williams
Rep. Glenys P. Lovett
Rep. Tarren R. Bragdon
Rep. Lois A. Snowe-Mello
Rep. Thomas F. Shields*



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).

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 2097 proposed to create the Commission on Dental and Mental Health Services for Children. The commission would have been charged with studying the need for additional dental and mental health professionals and strategies and incentives for improving access for children and low-income residents and shall make recommendations, including legislation. The commission would have been required to submit a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 1, 1999, at which time the commission would have been abolished.

LD 2099 An Act to Provide Increased Access to Dental Care in Maine INDEF PP

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

LD 2099 proposed to provide funds to increase access to oral health care for low-income children and adults by providing for the establishment and expansion of oral health programs that would be available to all people regardless of income. By using a sliding fee scale and accepting Medicaid without restrictions, these programs would increase access to oral health care for the uninsured and underinsured and Medicaid patients. See Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part MM.

LD 2109 An Act to Permit the Medical Use of Marijuana ONTP

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

LD 2109 proposed to make the following changes to the laws governing the possession and use of marijuana.

1. It proposed to authorize an eligible patient diagnosed with one or more specified debilitating conditions, including cancer and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, to use marijuana for medical purposes when a physician determines that the patient might benefit from marijuana use and when other requirements are met.
2. It proposed to limit the amount of marijuana that an eligible medical patient may possess without violating civil or criminal laws to no more than 1 1/4 ounces of harvested marijuana and six marijuana plants, of which not more than three may be mature, flowering plants.
3. It proposed to allow a person who is legally designated to care for an eligible medical patient to assist that patient in using marijuana for medical purposes.
4. For a person under 18 years of age, it proposed to authorize medical use of marijuana only if both the listed medical eligibility requirements have been met and a parent or legal guardian has given written consent to this use or the person is entitled to consent to all health care services pursuant to law.
5. It proposed to prohibit medical use of marijuana by an eligible patient in a public place or in a workplace where this use is not permitted.

This is a citizen-initiated bill and the issue will proceed to referendum in November, 1999.

LD 2110 An Act to Ensure Adequate Nutrition for Low-income Legal Aliens INDEF PP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
QUINT RAND	OTP-AM	H-267

LD 2110 proposed to provide for the continuation of food stamp assistance to low-income legal aliens after June 30, 1999. See also Public Law 1999, chapter 401, Part A-1.

LD 2113 Resolve, Directing the Department of Human Services to Conduct a Review of the Reimbursement Rates under the Medicaid Program for Speech, Language Pathology and Audiology Services RESOLVE 28

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
QUINT CATHCART	OTP-AM	H-275

LD 2113 proposed to direct the Department of Human Services to conduct a review of its Medicaid reimbursement rates for speech, language pathology and audiology services and report any recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 31, 1999. See also Resolve 1999, chapter 76.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-275) proposed to add occupational therapy and physical therapy to the services for which Medicaid reimbursement is being reviewed.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 28 directs the Department of Human Services to conduct a review of its Medicaid reimbursement rates for speech, language pathology, audiology services, occupational therapy and physical therapy and report any recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services by December 31, 1999.

LD 2119 An Act to Enhance Competition and Public Health CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
O'NEIL LAWRENCE		

LD 2119 proposes 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 would be distinguished from another in current law that prohibits the