

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).

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 2185

An Act to Promote Workplace Safety

CARRIED OVER

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
FULLER KILKELLY		

LD 2185 proposes to require the Department of Human Services to adopt rules to protect public employees from sharp object injuries. These rules would have to be at least as prescriptive as the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration's standard. The bill also proposes to establish a fund to provide for research, development and product evaluation of needleless systems and sharp object protection.

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

LD 2187

Resolve, to Implement the Study and Report on the Problems of Homeless Youth

CARRIED OVER

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

LD 2187 proposes to implement 4 recommendations of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and Housing Opportunities, issued pursuant to Public Law 1997, chapter 643, Part XX, section 5. The following are the 4 recommendations proposed to be implemented by this resolve.

1. This resolve proposes to establish a study of a potential Maine runaway and homeless youth system. The study would examine, for runaway and homeless youth, community-based options, low-barrier access, assessment, treatment, family mediation and outreach services that are consistent statewide to determine what minimal level of service is required to ensure the safety and well-being of unaccompanied homeless youths. This resolve proposes to establish a 10-member task force to conduct the study and submit a report of its findings, together with any recommended implementing legislation to the Legislature by March 1, 2000. The resolve proposes to appropriate \$20,000 through the Maine State Housing Authority to pay for the study.
2. The resolve proposes to appropriate \$100,000 each for the Department of Corrections, Department of Human Services, Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, Department of Labor and Department of Education to develop additional services and plans to serve youths who have outgrown the system. These services and plans would assist youths who are up to 21 years of age and who are leaving the care of a department to undertake job training and to pursue education and housing programs.
3. The resolve proposes to establish a study of the impact of legislative changes over the last 8 years to General Assistance. The study would assess program effectiveness, administrative practices at the local and state level, cost of delivering General Assistance, client benefits and the effect on homelessness. This resolve proposes to establish a 9-member task force to conduct the study and submit a report of its findings, together with any recommended implementing legislation to the Legislature by March 1, 2000. The resolve proposed to appropriate \$5,000 through the Department of Human Services to pay for the study.

4. The resolve proposes to increase the funding for the Temporary Housing Assistance Program from \$250,000 to \$500,000. The increase would be dedicated to serve homeless families or homeless youths staying in shelters in securing housing by providing security deposits and rental assistance. The Community Action Agencies would administer the dedicated funds.

The total amount of the appropriations contained in this resolve is \$1,025,000.

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

LD 2188	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Certain Sections of Chapter II, Section 67, Nursing Facility Services, of Chapter 101: Maine Medical Assistance Manual, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Human Services	RESOLVE 44 EMERGENCY
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2188 proposed to provide for legislative review of certain sections of Chapter II, Section 67, Nursing Facility Services, of Chapter 101: Maine Medical Assistance Manual, a major substantive rule of the Department of Human Services.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 44 authorizes final adoption of the agency rules relating to certain sections of Chapter II, Section 67, Nursing Facility Services, of Chapter 101: Maine Medical Assistance Manual, a major substantive rule of the Department of Human Services, without change.

Chapter 44 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 21, 1999.

LD 2189	Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 231: Rules Relating to Drinking Water, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Human Services	RESOLVE 43 EMERGENCY
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<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u> OTP	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
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LD 2189 proposed to provide for legislative review of Chapter 231: Rules Relating to Drinking Water, a major substantive rule of the Department of Human Services.

Enacted law summary

Resolve 1999, chapter 43 authorizes final adoption of Chapter 231: Rules Relating to Drinking Water, a major substantive rule of the Department of Human Services, without change.

Chapter 43 was enacted as an emergency measure effective May 20, 1999.