

# 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**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

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

**JULY 2000**

**MEMBERS:**

*Sen. Judy A. 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*

**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](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:

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  
ONT P..... 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

LD 2150 proposed to incorporate into statute portions of the 1994 Community Consent Decree for the provision of services to persons with mental retardation or autism.

This bill proposed to establish a policy of providing education, training and support services and programs to persons with mental retardation or autism and establish a committee to study whether to identify the population eligible for services and programs within the scope of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, chapter 4 as persons with developmental disabilities, or whether to continue to identify the population as persons with mental retardation or autism.

The bill proposed to continue the current practice of person-centered planning as a means for identifying and articulating the needs of clients for services and programs, to require that the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services maintain the ratio of caseworkers to clients required by the decree and to require that the department maintain the current system of crisis and respite services.

The bill proposed to provide mechanisms to promote the level of programs and services specified by the decree and require that the department provide a system for speedy resolution of grievances and appeals in cases where needs go unmet. It proposed to require that the department maintain accurate records about needs for services, conduct public hearings and summarize and report the status of the system to the Legislature as well as plan to correct identified deficiencies. The bill proposed to continue the Consumer Advisory Board as an independent oversight body with reporting responsibilities and to require the department to develop a quality assurance plan.

## **LD 2187**

## **Resolve, to Study Youth Homelessness**

**INDEF PP**

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

LD 2187 proposed 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 implemented by this resolve.

1. The resolve proposed to establish a study of a potential Maine runaway and homeless youth system to 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. The resolve proposed 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 proposed to appropriate \$20,000 through the Maine State Housing Authority to pay for the study.
2. The resolve proposed 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 proposed to establish a study of the impact of legislative changes over the last 8 years to General Assistance. The study would focus on effectiveness, administrative practices at the local and state level, cost of delivering General Assistance, client benefits and the effect on homelessness. This resolve proposed 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 proposed to increase the funding for the Temporary Housing Assistance Program by \$250,000, from \$250,000 to \$500,000. The amount increased would be dedicated to serve homeless families or homeless youths staying in shelters by providing security deposits and rental assistance. The Community Action Agencies would administer the dedicated funds.

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

**LD 2212                      An Act to Revise Laws Regarding Persons with Mental Retardation                      ONTP**

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

LD 2212 proposed to revise and update the laws in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B dealing with persons with mental retardation or autism in order to more accurately reflect current practices and to bring the law into compliance with judicial mandates.

**LD 2269                      An Act to Make Changes to the Cub Care Program                      INDEF PP**

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

LD 2269 proposed to make the following changes to the laws governing the Cub Care program. It proposed to allow the program to serve children who have not attained one year of age and set premiums for families with incomes between 185% and 200% of the nonfarm income official poverty line.

See Public Law 1999, chapter 731, Part PP.